

JPRS-LAM-87-032

24 APRIL 1987

# Latin America Report

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## LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

ARGENTINE CREDIT TO ECUADOR--Buenos Aires, 2 Apr (DPA)--The Argentine Government today granted a \$50-million credit to Ecuador. The Argentine Foreign Ministry reported that the funds will be used to build two pipelines in the coastal area. The communique states that the money will finance the purchase of goods and services in Argentina, and a local contracting firm pledges to deliver the works by operating with associate Ecuadoran companies. The information adds that the project is aimed at exporting goods and services in the region, given the priority that Argentina places on its integration with Latin American countries. [Text] [Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2045 GMT 2 Apr 87 PA] /9738

CSO: 3348/251

ALFONSIN ON PRESIDENTIAL GOALS, DOMESTIC, FOREIGN ISSUES

Buenos Aires AMBITO FINANCIERO in Spanish 17 Mar 87 pp 20, 14

[Interview with President Raul Alfonsin by journalists from DIE WELT and SUDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG; date and place not given; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] [Question] Mr President, with regard to the visit by the president of the Federal Republic of Germany and relations between our two countries, I would like to ask you how you see the economic-financial situation in Argentina. In particular, in view of your country's large foreign debt, what can countries such as Germany and the other European countries do to help alleviate the problem?

[Answer] You have stated the problem well. We are undergoing a difficult situation in the economic sphere, due primarily /to the problem arising from the foreign debt./ We hope, in any case, that all the creditor nations will give /political consideration to the problem,/ since it is not merely a financial question but rather one which obviously has social implications, and therefore political implications as well. /This is very important for democracies during periods of affirmation and consolidation, as we are experiencing during this transition in Argentina./

[Question] How can the problem of the Latin American countries' debt be solved?

[Answer] It is fundamentally a question of lowering interest rates substantially and providing very long-term financing. Otherwise, our economies will continue to be strangled, and will consequently suffer growth problems.

From another point of view, our countries' foreign trade must be favored and facilitated; this is what any creditor would do for a debtor. We have a debt to pay, and to be able to pay it we must work. Work, in these terms, means exporting. Thus, this is a second indispensable condition.

[Question] Are you aware of the internal problems the European Economic Community faces with farmers and other sectors?

[Answer] Of course, we are perfectly familiar with them. But we also believe that a cycle is about to end here in this connection, and that you are beginning to take a few steps that will certainly alleviate the situation from now on.

[Question] Do you Argentines believe you are still a Third World country which, from the ethical point of view, needs the understanding of the countries of the North?

[Answer] We are a developing country. Within this category there are different degrees and levels of development, but of course we still do not regard ourselves as a developed country. /What we need in our case is not just understanding, but justice; and what we demand is justice, a universal justice./

[Question] What is your view of the situation in Brazil, compared to Argentina?

[Answer] We have solidarity with Brazil. I believe that what Brazil is seeking is an acknowledgement that it cannot continue to pay all of the interest, as it has been doing until now, and that it needs reinforcement so that it can keep developing. This is what has happened in Argentina, also. We are not in a position to make all our interest payments, either, and there has been some understanding of this situation. I believe that Brazil needs an understanding attitude as well; it does not want a policy of confrontation, just some understanding of the nature of its problem.

[Question] It is always argued that the young democracies of Latin America are truly threatened by economic crises and poverty. Do you think this can be said of Argentina as well?

[Answer] We think we have consolidated democracy in Argentina, but it is clear that there are social tensions as a result of economic problems which, in turn, are caused by the fact that the debt problem prevents investment. Hence, this is always a problem, as we said before.

[Question] What importance does the visit of the German president to Argentina have?

[Answer] I believe it is very important. We are looking forward to his visit, of course, very eagerly. I have had the pleasure of meeting the president, of discovering--I believe--how he thinks. He is a statesman, and also a just man. I think he is an ethical man. Thus, the mere fact that he is very familiar with our problems will be of primary importance, /because I am convinced that the FRG will become an advocate for Argentina./

[Question] One of the greatest problems facing contemporary Argentina is its great plan to look to the south, that is, the challenge you have issued to the people, and above all the politicians--I have read about the discussions in the Senate . . .

[Answer] I think that the legislation to move the federal capital will come out of the Senate this month. But it is not just a matter of moving the capital, although that is a fundamental aspect, of course. It involves the development we want to carry out in southern Patagonia. That is a national objective which we are willing to take on, and as you say, it is a veritable challenge.

[Question] Sometimes one has the impression that you are very friendly with the revolutionary Sandinists in Nicaragua, given the policy you pursue, Mr Caputo's behavior, . . .

[Question] We are friends of peace, friends of respect for nations. We believe that nations should be sacred to other nations, but at the same time, we are friends of democratic pluralism.

/In particular, I have told the Nicaraguan leaders that no matter what position they adopt, Argentina must defend its own principles of international law. But if they choose the path of the Latin American democracies, that is, the path of democratic pluralism, we will strive mightily to ensure that Latin America understands that it must also accept responsibility for Nicaragua's economic problems. I am certain that in this regard we would enjoy the inestimable cooperation of Europe in solidifying the possibilities for a definitive democratization./

[Question] What did the Sandinists respond?

[Answer] They claim they are moving in that direction.

[Question] Octavio Paz has said that there is a confrontation between democracy and Marxism.

[Answer] I think that Marxism-Leninism, that is, the Marxist form of government as it has been known until now, is losing ground on all fronts, most obviously in the intellectual and political spheres.

I think that other movements which attempt to tie the idea of Marxism more closely to democracy and humanism are gaining ground. This can be seen very clearly in Italy, for example, /and I think we must also watch closely the changes that Mr Gorbachev may make in the USSR./

Thus, I would not venture to predict the future of Latin America, but I think that our continent may see /a kind of synthesis between those who are struggling for democracy, the egalitarian liberty that Marx and his disciples theorized, and those who are struggling for the individual freedoms and prerogatives set forth by Locke, Montesquieu, and their disciples./ Indeed, the search that man has conducted as a protagonist in history, his search for more just, more free, more egalitarian societies and for respect for the basic human rights, is taking place in a variety of spheres. It is taking place in the area of physical defense, of course, but also in terms of the freedom of expression, the freedom to decide what type of government a country will have, and who will lead each country.

I believe that this concept, and to a certain extent the one you put in Paz' mouth as well, is what sometimes leads the Church to take very peculiar attitudes. /It is what induces the military, and sometimes the North itself, to see things in Latin America in terms of black and white, and this can be dangerous./

[Question] And what about the role of the United States in relation to the OAS? Should it be set aside, or what do you think?

[Answer] No, the fact that we are aiming at this integration does not mean that we are living in an absolute utopia. We must try to internalize our foreign trade as much as possible. We need trade relations and all kinds of relations, with both the United States and Europe.

[Question] You are still a very popular president in Argentina.

[Answer] Yes, still . . .

[Question] What is your secret?

[Answer] I think people know that I am doing the best I can and that I am a good person. I do what I can, and I work honorably.

[Question] Are the Radicals concerned that they may lose the elections, or their majority?

[Answer] No, I think we are going to win by even more. We will win more provinces than in 1983.

[Question] And will you maintain your majority in the National Congress?

[Answer] It will be very difficult to maintain it, but we will.

[Question] Do you intend to remain in the presidency?

[Answer] I would like to reform the Constitution, but not for my reelection. /I favor a system with a prime minister./ Our Constitution has borrowed many things from the United States. /I think the U.S. system has not yielded great results outside of that country./

[Question] Nor in the United States.

[Answer] It has yielded better results in the United States. Here it has not spared us from Caesarism, much less from coups. /So I believe it is necessary to change our system./

On the other hand, I think we must make more than one party responsible for governing. We obtained 52 percent of the vote, but in countries like ours, where a considerable effort must be made and very drastic changes must be made, /it is necessary to govern with 80 percent for a term. And that is my dream./

[Question] Hence the efforts of the Council for the Consolidation of Democracy . . .

[Answer] Right. That is also why I have included in our government /men of different political persuasions, but I cannot say it is a coalition government; they have not been authorized by their parties./

[Question] What are the goals of your presidency?

[Answer] I think we must regard all this /as a transition from authoritarianism to democracy./ So one goal is to consolidate democracy.

/The other transition is that from a destroyed economy to a country that is following a definite course and is growing steadily./

/A transition from social postponement to social justice./ In short, to achieve a culture of effort, an ethic of solidarity, a democracy with participation, the modernization of Argentina as a whole. As you can see, I am very ambitious.

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CSO: 3348/232

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM POSTPONEMENT ANNOUNCED

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 16 Mar 87 p 9

[Passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

**[Text]** Interior Secretary /Juan Radonjic/ said that the constitutional reform bill will not be sent to Congress this year, mainly because /"it is difficult to think about a political accord of this type before the elections."/ The elections are set for 6 September.

Radonjic stated that the constitutional reform should be /"the fruit of a great national debate and a wide-ranging political accord among the parties,"/ and for this reason he said it would be unfeasible to send the bill to Congress before the end of the year.

The interior secretary also chastised the opposition for /"opposing as a knee-jerk reaction"/ any government initiative, which reveals that "they have not been completely loyal to the system."

In this connection, Radonjic said that "I see this Peronism as having no history, as if it were born yesterday with the international elections of the province of Buenos Aires."

"In contrast," he declared, "we are fully cognizant of the history of our party, including our errors," and he accused the Peronists of believing that /"no error committed by the country can be blamed on them."/

When asked about the emergence of the Group of 15 within the General Confederation of Labor (CGT), Radonjic conceded that /"the government is interested in considering all possibilities for dialogue,"/ not to "divide the workers' movement" but to exchange ideas "on a solid footing."

When reminded that the Group of 15 is made up of /Lorenzo Miguel/ and /Jorge Triaca,/ among others, the official replied that /"it is not a question of individuals, but of a political philosophy."/

Referring to the electoral climate prevailing in Buenos Aires and to the campaign launched by the Peronists, Radonjic asserted that "we are proposing an alternative that has yielded specific results," while on the other side

"there is speculation about expectations and the possibility of a protest vote."

/"We do not intend to put forth an isolated discourse," said the Radical leader, "one which contends that everything is going well; we are saying that we have a proposal to improve everything."/

In this regard, he emphasized that during the years of the Radical administration, levels of investment have recovered, the level of economic activity has risen, and so have real wages and the employment rate.

He acknowledged, however, that /"we are undergoing a transition,"/ and that Argentina "is combining life under a system in which the institutions are functioning fully in a real dynamic, with a transition process."

He added that "processes of this nature would have required greater cooperation on the part of the entire opposition" to solve problems more quickly.

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CSO: 3348/232

**ARGENTINA**

**HAVANA REPORTS ON RIGHTS VOTE**

PA152129 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Javier Rodriguez report from Buenos Aires]

[Text] The reports of the Argentine press concerning the pressure exerted by the United States to force the local government into supporting its anti-Cuban proposal at the Human Rights Commission in Geneva confirm the charges to that effect made public by Cuba.

The newspaper CLARIN--with the highest circulation in the country--has revealed that the attempts to make Argentine diplomacy follow U.S. directives were made by (Robert Gelbar), high ranking U.S. State Department official and by Elliott Abrams, assistant secretary of the state for inter-American affairs. The pressure included veiled threats of linking the Argentine vote to the aid that Washington might give Vuenos Aires in the solution of its differences with Great Britain concerning the Malvinas Islands, and to the \$500 million bridge loan recently granted to Argentina by 12 capitalist countries.

As a confirmation of the foregoing, U.S. Ambassador to Argentina Theodore Gildred, told a news agency that the U.S. Government was grieved at the South American nation's final vote against the U.S. wishes.

The newspapers AMBITO FINANCIERO and LA PRENSA of this capital have added more information to the story about the pressure. The newspaper disclosures have increased the ill-feeling generated by the U.S. attitude of using all types of illegal means to attain the political victory it was ultimately unable to attain at the Geneva meeting.

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CSO: 3348/251

**ARGENTINA**

**BRIEFS**

**SUBVERSIVE EFFORTS DENIED--** Presidential Secretary General Carlos Becerra has stated that there are not any sectors of people planning to subvert constitutional order in Argentina. Nevertheless, the presidential secretary general admitted that the current court summons of military personnel have prompted a crisis within the Armed Forces. Becerra expressed optimism that this situation will be overcome by the military institutions. Concerning the recent violence, Becerra admitted that as long as such actions persist, democracy will not be guaranteed or definitely established. Becerra said that these actions, among them the thwarted attack against the president of the federal court, were not as important as the perpetrators tried to make them. [Text] [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Mar 87 PY/ 9738]

**COORDINADORA, FRANJA MORADA SUMMIT--** The issue that has been raised in the Argentine University Federation and the University Federation of Buenos Aires, where the schism in the Franja Morada (the university organization of the Radical Party) is threatening to destroy the leadership position it has held in the National Coordinating Board (JCN) since 1983, will be studied once again this week by the three top leaders of the different factions that make up the JCN. These leaders, Federico Storani, Luis Caceres, and Enrique Nosiglia, will meet in an effort to mend fences. The former youth leaders will try to patch up relations between the National and Popular Faction of Franja Morada, an offshoot of the "official" Franja Morada, and the national leadership of that faction. They will also have to discuss the different positions that are driving away the regional bodies of the interior, primarily those of Cordoba and the Northwest. The opposition bloc in the University Federation, which includes the Peronist University Youth (JUP), the Intransigent University Movement, and independent leftist groups, could install its own candidate for president (who would be a representative of the JUP) if it wins the support of the National and Popular Franja Faction. Party sources indicated that President Alfonsin suggested to the leaders of the JCN that they "not neglect" the university issue, given that this has always been a bastion of Radicalism. One of the fundamental issues the coordinators must analyze is the situation in the federal capital, where the slate headed by Enrique Nosiglia and Jesus Rodriguez is trying to win the support of the Santa Fe leader, primarily. On the other hand, the leaders will begin to seek common guidelines for dealing with the election campaign next September. [Text] [Buenos Aires AMBITO FINANCIERO in Spanish 17 Mar 87 p 15] 8926

CSO: 3348/232

**BEDREGAL WANTS SOCIAL PACT TO DEFEND DEMOCRACY**

PY011801 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal Gutierrez has stated that there must be a social pact capable of allowing coexistence among Bolivians. The minister suggested that government, workers and businessmen should participate in this social pact. He added that for the good of the country everyone must give in to some extent, and we should all realize that the only way Bolivia will improve is through cooperation and joint effort. This is what Bedregal had to say.

[Begin recording] I believe that most Bolivians share my way of thinking. Most Bolivians feel that first of all we must continue our struggle against inflation because it is the utmost source of poverty and anxiety. The people also want problems to be resolved in peace, without any tensions or violence.

I believe that it is quite clear that we are no longer prepared to accept violent behavior. We should all accept final decisions humbly and with a great deal of understanding because taking into consideration that we are just 6 million very poor Bolivians, the least we can do is have a basically fraternal feeling of coexistence and a willingness to share the burdens of these difficult times. [end recording]

Bedregal also proposed a social pact which he believes the nation needs urgently.

[Begin recording] I have repeatedly proposed during the meetings held at the archbishopric that a social pact is the civilized approach if we want to preserve democracy. Unfortunately history teaches us that hyperinflation has always opened the way for authoritarian governments, and the only way to re-serve democracy in the long term is through a social agreement. [end recording]

The foreign minister added that it is not strange at all for a foreign minister to actively participate in the quest for solutions to national social problems, and stated that the chief executive has complete confidence in his performance as a member of the executive branch.

/9274  
CSO: 3348/252

SANTA CRUZ COMMITTEE ORDERS SHUTDOWN

PY281652 Paris AFP in Spanish 0718 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] La Paz, 25 Mar (AFP)--Carlos Dabdoub, president of the Santa Cruz Civic Committee, has announced that his organization today ordered the closure of roads, the international airport, and the gas and oil pipelines. The suspension of all activities, including the transportation of food products to the rest of the country, has also been ordered, he said.

Through these measures, the Santa Cruz Department will defend its right to use freely the royalties paid by the oil companies in defense of regional interest, Dabdoub said.

Besides, he added, we want to prevent the approval of law that is unfair to Santa Cruz Department and cuts our royalties by 11 percent.

These drastic measures have been in force since 1500 (1900 GMT) and have been totally obeyed by all departmental public organizations.

Santa Cruz, 1,000 km east of La Paz, has turned into an important regional center in recent years. It has high oil and industrial productivity and consequently great economic importance.

The civic committee has started spreading the word that Santa Cruz has its own president in Carlos Dabdoub, creating great concern in Congress since this is unconstitutional.

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CSO: 3348/252

**STUDENTS ACCUSED OF SUBVERSION**

PY181416 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Interior Minister Under Secretary Ruben Moreno has reported that university students from Potosi engaged in criminal actions during a demonstration staged to demand a budget for the university.

Moreno stated that the results of the investigations conducted by the Interior Ministry intelligence services are hereby confirmed, in the sense that university students and professors are involved in subversive activities.

The Interior Ministry under secretary added that during the incidents a policeman was injured and the streets were damaged by the demonstrators who pulled up rocks from the pavement. Some windows were also broken, he said.

This situation led the mayor to hold a meeting last night with the university officials in order to reach an agreement. Moreno added that the government will not permit disorder, and that it will act in accordance with the national constitution.

Regarding the position to be adopted by the Bolivian Labor Confederation [COB] within the next few hours, Moreno stated that developments will be watched. He said that union rights will be respected, provided that the laws are also respected, and provided that they do not engage in any anarchy or destabilizing plan against the government.

/9274  
CSO: 3348/252

BRIEFS

AIR GROUP CHIEF APPOINTED--Lieutenant Colonel David Molina G. was sworn in yesterday as the new commander of the 31st Fighter Plane Air Group [Grupo Aero de Caza—GAC] at El Alto Air base. He replaces Colonel Jose F. Perez Reyes Ortiz, who has been appointed administrative director of the Aeronautes Ministry. [Excerpts] [La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 14 Jan 87 p 5 PY] /9274

INTEGRATION SECRETARY GENERAL INSTALLED--Acting Foreign Minister Jorge Baldez on 5 March installed Dr Alfredo Virreira as integration secretary general. [Excerpt] [La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 6 Mar 87 p 5 PY] /9274

NEW CONASE SECRETARY GENERAL--During a private ceremony at government palace, President Victor Paz Estenssoro installed General Hermes Fellman Forteza as CONASE [National Security Council] permanent secretary general. [Excerpt] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 6 Mar 87 p 6 PY] /9274

NEW ADN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE--General Hugo Banzer, ADN [Nationalist Democratic Action] National Chief, has appointed the new National Executive Committee: Guillermo Fortun as national executive secretary; Mauro Vertero G. as doctrine secretary; Fernando Kieffer G. as government plan and program secretary; Gonzalo Torrico F. as press and propaganda secretary; Antonio Ormachea M. as international relations secretary; Jorge Monja Zapata as national public relations secretary; and Fernando Rojas A. as secretary general. [Excerpt] [La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 8 Mar 87 p 3 PY] /9274

COMIBOL RECOVERY PLAN SET--Minister Jaime Villalobos has reported that the financial plan for the recovery and reactivation of the Mining Corporation of Bolivia [COMIBOL] has been established at \$71 million, \$50 million of which will be financed, and the remaining \$21 million will be paid by the government. He said that a study was made of the country's mining possibilities an important element for the reactivation of the economy. Villalobos said that the government believes that the mining sector is still very important for the country. [Summary] [La Paz Presencia in Spanish 26 Feb 87 p 1 PY] /9274

CSO: 3348/252

## CULTURAL ACTIVITIES OF TROOPS IN ANGOLA VIEWED

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 5 Feb 87 p 2

[Article by Eduardo Palomares Calderon]

[Text] This time the cultural event did not have the fancy scenery of gala shows; on the contrary, it took place in the rugged terrain of southern Angola, where the guitar chords and the machine-gun fire hit their highest notes on their own.

There, one of our most outstanding military units, in terms of combat and political preparedness, began an experience that has already been developed in Cuba, in an effort to adjust to the real conditions of the Cuban military mission in Angola. This experiment was declared the first to be attempted here with the Movement of Basic Cultural Institutions.

On this truly festive Saturday, the infantry and anti-aircraft troops demonstrated their marksmanship, the land artillery troops displayed their skill in preparing their weapons for combat, and the explorers showed off their mastery of their functions. But once the demonstrations were over, one might easily come across one of these same soldiers playing the guitar, putting the finishing touches on a painting, or embroiled in a debate on a film, just to mention a few examples.

### They Put It Together So Well!

I would say that long before this, the unit had already given its best "recitals" during instruction. According to the inspections by the superior command, for six sessions in a row this unit had obtained overall ratings of good. Moreover, it had proven to be the best unit on the southern line, with its high scores on tasks related to operative, combat, and political preparedness, and in its fulfillment of the internationalist mission assigned to it in this brother country.

Maintaining the musical analogy, we might also say that the best "accompaniment" to the long and exhausting days of instruction came from the wide-ranging and large-scale cultural effort that was developed simultaneously. It was designed not only for entertainment, but primarily for providing the combatants with education and training.

"In practice," stated the unit chief, "we worked to the beat of the Movement of Basic Cultural Institutions, because all the chiefs, substitutes, political agencies, and organizations of the Party and the Union of Young Communists (UJC) were involved in implementing this idea. In the words of Comrade Armando Hart, member of our Politburo and minister of culture, this idea takes priority over everything, as our first cultural duty, our duty to the Fatherland and to proletarian internationalism."

The rest of the project was hardly planned, because it did not require a lot of thought; but it was well-conceived. All that needed to be done was to bring together the people and make an official commitment to forming a Basic Cultural Institution. As never before, the troops expressed tremendous pride in being Cuban internationalists and love of their unit.

Socialist emulation, concerted work, the rigorous demands of officers at all levels, the devotion of the Party and the UJC to the solution of problems that arose in the unit, and the creative spirit demonstrated by the rationalizers, all contributed a great deal.

We witnessed the construction, in record time and with a great aesthetic sense, of facilities, areas, and materials designed for recreation and entertainment. We also saw the remodeling of the new enlisted men's club, which many rank with the best popular camping sites in our country. In addition, we saw the effective organization of the powerful movement of those interested in music, theater, plastic arts, literature, and other cultural activities.

Those who visited the camp a week ago would not recognize today the entrance that greets visitors, the ornamental and camouflage vegetation that surrounds the working areas, the magnificent living conditions provided for the personnel, and other noteworthy creations that the soldiers have achieved with their own efforts, allowing the command to set even higher goals to attain.

There is no doubt that in the fields, classrooms, and all other areas of the camp where the combatants converge, it is apparent that attention to culture for the purpose of meeting the spiritual and recreational needs of the troops has helped increase the training and combat readiness and has strengthened the political, moral, and disciplinary state of the personnel.

Now, to develop and consolidate this position as a Basic Cultural Institution, there are recreational plans based on the rational use of the available facilities and materials, the needs of the personnel, and the real possibilities for meeting them. At the same time, any initiative aimed at promoting cultural affairs, sports, and military games is encouraged.

Under this effective stimulus, this collective, with hundreds of officers, sergeants, and soldiers decorated this year with the First Class Internationalist Combatant Medal and the Distinguished Service Award, has decided to become the best unit in the Cuban Military Mission in the People's Republic of Angola.

And judging by the latest news received, in the rugged scenery of southern Angola, the guitar chords and the machine-gun fire are playing an increasingly harmonious melody.

## CAUSES OF SUGAR HARVEST FATALITIES, INJURIES EXAMINED

Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 9 Feb 87 p 7

[Text] Unfortunately, in the past year of sugar harvesting, there were 24 accidents in activities related to agriculture and transportation, as well as 31 industrial accidents, making a total of 55 fatal work accidents.

Our sugar harvests have historically had a high rate of fatal accidents, and we have not been able to reduce that rate.

Several weeks of the current harvest have already gone by, and naturally the enthusiasm and strong labor consciousness of the agricultural and industrial workers in this sector are running high. They work long days, and all of this, as is logical, produces fatigue in the men.

Nevertheless, this is not the reason for the six fatal accidents that have occurred in the cutting, hoisting, and throwing of the cane (according to the data compiled by the Inspection Office of the State Committee on Labor and Social Security).

The causes that have generally been responsible for accidents in this sector have not changed; in historical terms, they are the same as they were in the past: unsafe work methods, derived from inadequate organization of the work. The following examples can be cited:

—Accidents with combines have taken place when the operator has crawled under the equipment to make mechanical adjustments without turning off the engine, or when the machine is cleaned with the cutting mechanism on, without regard for the danger posed by its sharp blades. Another factor has been the failure to use the hand tools that are appropriate for this job.

—In the work with hoisters, accidents have happened because the equipment was moving too fast, because the operator did not check the work area before moving the machine, or because people have been caught in the stirrup of the hoist.

—The most common tractor accident is overturning, either because the driver was going too fast or because he was not paying enough attention to his driving. There are also accidents when sharp turns are made, and when the

driver does not check the work area before moving the machine; that is, he starts the tractor and pulls the attachment when a worker is asleep underneath.

--Accidents have happened with trucks because their drivers go too fast in the cane field. In addition, operators do not take enough care when backing up within the work area where many people are moving, and thus a worker can easily be run over.

--Among the gleaners, that is, the workers who walk behind the combines picking up cane, there have also been accidents when they are injured by trucks and by the combines themselves.

In the "novia," the small workshop that is maintained out in the field for repairs, there are generally women present. The workers have a habit of hanging around the "novias," and there have also been accidents there, because the equipment and vehicle traffic makes this a dangerous place.

It is noteworthy, as we said, that during the short period in question, the same factors or circumstances present in the past harvest can still be observed.

During the course of the sugar harvest, when more men and more agricultural machinery must necessarily be used, with the inherent danger that many of these machines represent, and given the numerous areas where there is a specific high risk in the cutting, hoisting, and throwing of the cane, the direct supervisors, platoon chiefs, brigade chiefs, combine operators, hoisters, truck drivers, and the workers themselves must exercise greater care and control in the prevention of accidents on the job.

We cannot allow accidents to continue; to allow them is to admit that wrongdoings are not being rectified. We must increase our efforts to prevent accidents throughout the rest of the harvest; we must confront work accidents in this sector head-on.

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## BRIEFS

SUGAR HARVEST LABOR DATA--The cane cutters of the Youth Labor Army (EJT) were the most productive in the country in the last 10 days of this harvest, averaging 351 arrobas rather than the 318 predicted. The EJT and the peasants were the only forces that fulfilled their commitments; the regular state cutters and the volunteers of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions (CTC) averaged just 314 and 310 arrobas per capita, respectively. The provinces of Camaguey, Ciego de Avila, Cienfuegos, Havana, and Sancti Spiritus were the most outstanding of the six provinces that exceeded their commitments. Only Camaguey and Granma met their quota for delivering cane; the national figure was 93 percent. Cane losses in the last 10 days of the current campaign rose to 354 arrobas per caballeria in mechanized harvesting. From the 11th to the 20th of last month, losses throughout the country amounted to 4,509 arrobas per caballeria; in the last 10 days of that month, the losses rose to 4,863 arrobas per caballeria. Among the Agroindustrial Centers (CAI) with the highest losses was the Benito Juarez plant in Villa Clara, with 8,759 arrobas. Nevertheless, in manual harvesting, losses fell from 2,216 to 2,006 arrobas per caballeria. These figures are still high, however, considering that the objective is to have little or no loss. [Excerpts] [Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 9 Feb 87 p 2] 8926

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LAMPORT CALLS FOR GOVERNMENT NONINTERVENTION IN ECONOMY

Guatemala City EL GRAFICO (LA REVISTA supplement) in Spanish 1 Feb 87 p 24

[Interview with CACIF Director Pedro Miguel Lamport by Americo Castellanos; date, time, and place not given]

[Text] The director of the Coordinating Committee of Agricultural, Commercial, Industrial, and Financial Associations (CACIF) and former president of the Chamber of Commerce, Pedro Miguel Lamport, urged the government of President Vinicio Cerezo to abandon its policy of intervening in commercial affairs. In his words, the government "has proven to be an inefficient administrator."

Last Thursday, after a meeting of the board of directors, CACIF expressed its total repudiation of state intervention in this area, and warned that the unfair competition promoted by the government's actions, often through subsidies which encourage corruption, poses a threat to the national economy.

It is well known that the current government has implemented some specific measures that have caused discord in the private sector, which insists that the rules of the free enterprise system be respected.

Of these measures, the one that has had possibly the greatest impact is the contract awarded to the General Supervision Corporation (SGS), which has been assailed by businessmen as inefficient and a real threat to the productive sector. The tense situation between the government and the private sector has intensified, moreover, because of the administration's efforts to implement something similar to Mexico's National Company for Basic Commodities (CONASUPO).

Pedro Miguel Lamport explains the position and opinion of the business sector on this matter:

"When one speaks of state intervention in the economy, one must visualize areas where it takes direct action, either through enterprises, autonomous institutions, or efforts to direct the economy, or through the imposition of a legal mandate that intervenes in the economy one way or another.

"In reviewing the institutions or enterprises where the state has intervened, we can form an overall picture of how deficient it has been as an administrator."

[Question] Could you give us some specific examples to back up that assertion?

[Answer] There are many. The state as a producer and distributor of electricity: If it were not for the fact that our currency has undergone a devaluative process, Guatemala would be producing the second most expensive electricity in Latin America. When distribution was in private hands, Guatemala provided the second-best and second-cheapest distribution.

Ports: It is estimated that our ports take the longest time to load and unload in all of Latin America. We are talking about Santo Tomas de Castilla, Quetzal, and Champerico.

Milk Production (PROLAC): This enterprise has not stimulated an increase in milk production, and continues to yield deficits. It needs subsidies to survive.

Marketing and storage of grains, National Institute of Agricultural Marketing (INDECA): This institution has not had enough stability of basic grain prices, and continues to require state subsidies.

National Financial Corporation (CORFINA): An enterprise that has exerted pressure on the service of our short-term foreign debt, which resulted from the multimillion-dollar project known as CELGUSA. This project may never get off the ground. Nonetheless, the debts contracted with foreign banks and endorsed by CORFINA will have to be paid off by the nation.

National Development Bank (BANDESA): The cost of running the bank is greater than the interest it earns on the loans it provides.

National Housing Bank (BANVI): It has had no serious impact on the development of housing, yet it is suffering the same problems as BANDESA.

Guatemalan National Railways (FEGUA): This enterprise is completely in the red. It is the reason Guatemala is unable to obtain assistance from Canada, because it has not met the obligations it contracted when it purchased the locomotives which have not yet begun to run on the rails owned by this enterprise.

AVIATECA: It generates profits through subsidies paid by the passengers of all the international airlines that serve Guatemala.

Finally, with regard to indirect execution, for example, the entire rest of the public agricultural sector, which has 8,000 employees, is responsible for improving technology, enhancing the country's productive capacity in the agricultural sphere, and making adequate use of national lands. It can be said that this sector has not even come close to meeting all of the objectives

for which it was created, and it continues to be an enormous burden on the public treasury.

[Question] What is your opinion of price controls?

[Answer] When the state has taken action to control prices, the only thing it has created is a source of corruption, black markets, artificial shortages of staples, disincentives for production, more unemployment, and the misappropriation of the scarcest resource in Guatemala: capital.

[Question] And what about subsidies?

[Answer] Once again, subsidies, rather than fully satisfying the basic needs of the population, have been a source of corruption, disincentives for national production, unfair competition, and the misappropriation of capital. They have not only short-term consequences, but also long-term ones.

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**GUATEMALA**

**CHEA CLARIFIES RELATIONS WITH USSR**

Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 27 Feb 87 p 3

[Text] The visit by Mr Yury I. Pavlov, Soviet ambassador to Costa Rica, does not at all mean that diplomatic relations with that country are being renewed, declared Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Luis Chea.

Chea recalled that Guatemala established diplomatic ties with the Soviet Union in 1945, but ambassadors were never exchanged. However, Guatemala named Luis Cardozo y Aragon to that post.

Later (during the Liberation government in 1954), these relations were suspended de facto, although there was never a formal severance of ties. He explained, however, that the fact that Guatemala never confirmed the suspension does not mean that we have diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union.

In very specific terms, he added, there are no diplomatic relations with that country.

Dr Eduardo Enriquez Arrue, legal director at the Ministry of Foreign Relations, explained that trade relations are indeed maintained. In fact, imports or products from the Soviet Union can enter Guatemala with perfect ease.

Under the current situation, there is no ban on such imports. There used to be a limitation, and there was even an additional tax on products from the other side of the iron curtain.

Chea also indicated that the interview with Ambassador Pavlov took place within the framework of an informal visit, as part of a tourism package organized by the Guatemalan ambassador to Costa Rica.

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ROLE OF WOMEN IN CEREZO GOVERNMENT

Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 14 Feb 87 p 7

[Article by Ricardo Gatica Trejo]

[Text] Guatemala City, 14 February (Valentine's Day), EL GRAFICO--Now, as never before, women have risen to power firmly and absolutely within a government. This is true of the present Christian Democratic administration.

What was "taboo" a few years ago has now become the norm: finding women holding major government office.

One should not conclude that we are against women participating in government. On the contrary, we believe that they should become increasingly involved in the daily life of this country.

It is noteworthy, however, that in the past, due to the very nature of the jobs, many of the posts now held by women were assigned to men.

The Christian Democratic administration started out with three women in key positions: Prof Ana Catalina Soberanis Reyes as minister of labor, Sara Mishan de Ramirez in the strategic position of secretary of political affairs, and Claudia Arenas in the Office of Tourism.

This year women have an even greater presence in government, and in positions of importance. Moreover, Mirna Ponce is serving as secretary of social welfare.

In addition, Carmen Rosa de Leon is the head of the Office of Refugees, while the daughters of two ministers are in charge of purchasing in two ministries.

In the Congress of the Republic, six women are active deputies, although the list includes two more who are presently holding government office.

[Box, p 7] Government Apparatus

Two women participate actively in government decisionmaking at the cabinet level: Labor Minister Ana Catalina Soberanis Reyes and Minister of Culture

and Sports Ana Isabel Prera de Lobo (the latter ministry was created by this Christian Democratic administration).

In order of importance, they are followed by Sara Mishan de Ramirez, secretary of political affairs of the President's Office, who is in direct and constant communication with President Cerezo Arevalo.

Next comes Claudia Arenas, secretary of public relations of the President's Office. Then, in order of importance, there is Mirna Ponce, secretary of social welfare.

In the so-called "mini-cabinet," two women are serving this year: Vice Minister of Culture Marta Rosales de Fahsen and Vice Minister of Specific Affairs Elubia de Castillo. The vice minister of education is Carmen Maria Galo de Lara.

Beatriz Zuniga is a little more removed from government decisionmaking in her post as director of the Guatemalan Institute of Tourism (INGUAT).

On a lower level, young Carmen Rosa de Leon, daughter of Development Minister Rene de Leon Schlotter, is in charge of refugee matters for the Guatemalan Government.

And finally, on a lower scale, the Christian Democratic administration has designated the daughters of two ministers as purchasing agents in two ministries, thereby increasing the number of women in government.

#### Ambassador in Honduras

Women are also present at the Guatemalan Foreign Ministry: Eunice Lima was recently named Guatemalan ambassador to Honduras.

Although she has not yet presented her credentials, she has already traveled to that neighboring country. She is another woman in the Christian Democratic Administration.

#### Departmental Governor

Departmental Governor Carolina Peralta is one of the "pioneer" women in this government. She has been in office for over a year, and she will apparently remain there until "new orders" are received.

She was put to the test recently when the Pacaya Volcano became active, and earlier she had to deal with a serious incident arising out of the lack of transportation in San Juan Sacatepequez.

## Two Women in the Cabinet



Minister of:

1. Development, Rene de Leon Schlotter
2. Interior, Juan Jose Rodil Peralta
3. Labor, Ana Catalina Soberanis Reyes
4. Culture and Sports, Ana Isabel Prera de Lobo
5. Health, Dr Carlos Armando Soto
6. Foreign Relations, Mario Quinones Amezquita
7. Defense, Gen Hector Gramajo
8. Economy, Lizardo Sosa Lopez
9. Finance, Rodolfo Paiz Andrade
10. Energy and Mines, Roland Castillo Contoux
11. Communications, Eduardo Goyzueta
12. Specific Affairs of the President's Office, Prof Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo
13. Education, Dr Eduardo Meyer Maldonado
14. Agriculture, Rodolfo Estrada

During cabinet sessions, the discussion of government affairs is carried out at a table similar to the one shown in this drawing. There the problems of government are discussed, and the two women ministers have decisionmaking and voting powers just like any other member of the cabinet.

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CABRERA FORMS INTER-PARTY TASK FORCE

Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA 20 Mar 87 p 3

[Text] The minister of specific affairs of the President's Office, Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo, described as successful the meeting he held with the general secretaries and representatives of 10 of the 11 political parties and organizations to create a national democratic political forum.

"There was a consensus among the leaders of the different political organizations on the need to create a forum that will permit the analysis of the national situation and the various problems that affect the sectors of the population, and will contribute to the search for effective, mutually beneficial solutions that can strengthen the democratic process," declared Minister Cabrera Hidalgo.

It was agreed that this political body will be made up of the general secretaries and deputy secretaries of the parties and organizations. They will meet again on 31 March at the Legislative Palace to determine the mechanisms that will be utilized to ensure the institutionalization of this political forum, in which President Marco Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo will eventually participate, to establish priorities among national problems and possible solutions.

Multisectoral Commission

The minister of specific affairs of the President's Office also reported that he will resume leadership of the Multisectoral Commission, and that he has already issued invitations to the representatives of the sectors involved in the search for solutions to the electricity problem. Separate meetings will be held with them on this matter.

He emphasized that plenary meetings are not necessary to study the rate problem, so he has requested that the sectors participating in the commission submit specific proposals.

The executive branch will analyze all the proposals and make a decision on this problem. The solution may involve a combination of two or more alternatives proposed by the members of the Multisectoral Commission, stated Minister Cabrera Hidalgo.

He revealed, finally, that the Coordinating Committee of Agricultural, Commercial, Industrial, and Financial Associations (CACIF) has agreed to submit a study on the privatization of the National Institute of Electrification (INDE). When it is delivered, it will be analyzed thoroughly, and the other sectors, primarily labor, must formulate their proposals in the same terms.

#### Code Reforms

As for the reforms planned for the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, the minister of specific affairs of the President's Office, Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo, asserted that the government will take vigorous action to prevent a lapse into "licentiousness" because of the abuse of liberties that is being observed in our country.

He denied that the planned reforms of the aforementioned penal instruments violate the human rights of Guatemalans in any way, and stressed that at the recent meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, there was a unanimous vote in favor of Guatemala because of the government's human rights policy.

In addition, Minister Cabrera Hidalgo denied that the government of President Marco Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo has succumbed to pressure from various sectors to retreat on some fronts.

"What is happening is that the opinion of various sectors on the treatment of certain issues has been misinterpreted. It is natural in a democracy to try to find a point of equilibrium within the context of negotiations.

"But President Cerezo Arevalo is determined to enforce current legislation vigorously to prevent any deviations or misinterpretations of government authority, so that liberties are used properly and licentiousness does not result," he emphasized.

"If the democratic process that we are all obligated to preserve falls apart," said Minister Cabrera, "we will all lose, and we will suffer a severe crisis once again, possibly leading to a civil war of unimaginable consequences."

"The government," he stressed, "has been as flexible as the limits of democracy allow, but we are going to put the democratic process back on track. In this regard, anyone who violates the laws of the land will be punished."

#### Clarification

Referring to the statements made in Costa Rica by the former dean of the School of Economics at the University of San Carlos, Rafael Piedrasanta, to the effect that President Marco Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo is surrounded and threatened by the "death squads," Minister Cabrera Hidalgo stated that in Costa Rica there is a different perspective on what is happening in Guatemala. It is natural that Rafael Piedrasanta, who does not live in Guatemala, would

not have enough information on which to base an opinion regarding the country's situation, he noted.

"I believe," he said, "that all Guatemalans should be in Guatemala and participate in the consolidation of the democratic process. In the case of this well-known professional, it is an indiscretion to make such assertions."

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MRS CEREZO CONTINUES TO SUPPORT FATHER GIRON

Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 11 Mar 87 p 4

[Text] Guatemala City, 11 March--The wife of the president of the republic, Raquel Blandon de Cerezo, stated yesterday during a visit to Congress that she continues to support Father Andres Giron and the peasants in their demands for land.

Giron once again drew attention this week when he presented an "ultimatum" to the government, saying that it must turn over the lands it had promised. He warned of the possibility of a peasant march on the capital, as well as another measure that will be kept "a surprise."

EL GRAFICO: In spite of everything, do you still support Father Giron?

Mrs Cerezo: I support the peasants.

EL GRAFICO: You no longer support Father Giron?

Mrs Cerezo: Of course I do!

The first lady of the nation arrived at the Legislative Palace for the stated purpose of greeting the president of the Congress and the new Board of Directors.

She also took that opportunity to propose that the congressmen push through reforms to current legislation on all matters involving discrimination against women.

Mrs Cerezo explained that on the occasion of International Women's Day, she had stated this need, and the deputies gave her a favorable response.

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## GRAMAJO CLARIFIES LETONA'S EXIT

Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 12 Mar 87 p 6

[Text] After Gen Edilberto Letona took office as chief of the General Defense Staff, there were a lot of comments, even talk of a "coup."

It was rumored that there was a schism in the army between "doves" and "hawks." There was talk of an attempt by the "hawks" to seize power.

Nonetheless, at the last minute, it was said, the "doves" won and an effort was afoot to purge the "hardliners," the "hawks." Finally, Gen Letona took command, but it was said that at one time there was a distinct antagonism between Gen Letona and Gen Gramajo, who represented the "hawks" and the "doves," respectively.

And, so that popular fantasies could fly even higher, just 2 weeks after he took command, Gen Letona announced that he was going to the United States for a medical check-up. Then, 24 hours later, he tendered his resignation from that country.

According to the charter of the Army, Gen Letona is now retired and cannot return to active duty, unless an exceptional situation arises.

His abrupt departure from the Army has fueled the popular imagination, and the rumors are flying. Was Gen Letona really a "hawk"? Was there a consolidation of the "doves" in the end? Was there really an attempted coup?

Gen Gramajo has a simpler explanation. In his typical Campeche style, which sometimes leads him to use expressions from our everyday language, he explains things with astonishing simplicity.

There are no purges of any sort. There are no hardliners or softies. There are no "hawks" or "doves," he said while quenching his thirst with a glass of pineapple drink.

The truth is that Gen Letona could not take the pressure of the job, he explained in an interview. It is not the same to be a commander as to be chief of the General Defense Staff, he added.

The pressure of the post got to him so bad that Gen Letona had to be hospitalized, and he himself recognized that he could not return, so he tendered his resignation, said Gramajo in another part of the interview.

An indication of how difficult the job is, said Gen Gramajo, is the fact that Gen Caceres Rojas recently took ill and had to undergo auscultation at the Military Hospital.

It's easy, it's simple, he says. There was no attempted coup or anything. Gen Letona just got sick, and that is why he resigned from the military.

Now he is retired, recovering from the pressure he was subjected to for 2 weeks. This had not happened to him once in 30 years of service.

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CABRERA ALARMED OVER INCREASE IN CRIME

Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 4 Mar 87 p 4

[Text] Guatemala City, 4 March—The statements made yesterday by the minister of specific affairs of the President's Office, Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo, can be interpreted as official recognition of the wave of violence that has overtaken the country. There is clear evidence that it is on the increase.

Indeed, Cabrera expressed "his profound concern about the rising wave of crime that has cost the lives of valuable members of our society."

The president's minister added that he will contact officials and authorities responsible for the security of the citizenry for the purpose of discussing this problem and seeking means to reduce the incidence of crime.

It may be recalled in this connection that Interior Minister Juan Jose Rodil Peralta announced that "toward the middle of the year the effectiveness of the actions taken by the security forces will become apparent as the rate of violence begins to decline."

Until this assertion becomes a reality, there is no guarantee that the lives of many other people will not be cut short by crime.

Cabrera also stated that he will meet with the deputies of the ruling party to determine what reforms can be introduced through legislation, primarily in the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure.

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ARCHBISHOP PENADOS TELLS REFUGEES 'WAIT FOR GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT'

Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 30 Mar 87 p 3

[Text] Guatemala City, 30 March--Metropolitan Archbishop Msgr Prospero Penados del Barrio stated that the necessary conditions have not yet been created for the Guatemalan refugees living in southern Mexico to return to this country.

In view of this situation, the prelate called upon the refugees not to return "until the government makes a commitment to meet your demands."

With this statement, the chief of the metropolitan church seconded, in a sense, the decision by the leaders of the Union of Education Workers (STEG) not to recommend the return of refugees and exiles because of continued human rights violations.

Msgr Penados noted, however, that one difference is that "the Church has established some communication."

Msgr Penados explained that the return of the refugees will not be supported by the Church until the peasants' own demands are met:

1. That they not be forced to return to the Development Poles
2. That they be located in their own communities
3. That the Church help them
4. That they not be forced to submit to the amnesty law
5. That they be offered guarantees of personal security

The religious leader indicated that with respect to the assistance they are requesting from the Church, that is already being provided. He went on to say that the support will remain firm and decisive. In this regard, he indicated that the first contacts have already been made with government authorities to see that the refugees' requests are honored.

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LINARES OUTLINES BANGUAT LOAN TO GOVERNMENT

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 23 Mar 87 p 2

[Text] The Bank of Guatemala (BANGUAT) set a credit limit of 100 million quetzales for the government this year, for the purpose of partially correcting the economic crisis the country is undergoing, declared BANGUAT President Federico Linares.

He spoke about the financial discipline that has been imposed in central bank institutions, and noted that the bank is maintaining net growth within the established limits.

Referring to the debt, Linares indicated that the bank loses money on dollar sales and purchases.

He explained that the exchange system remains the same for the present, but in 4 months the bank market and the regulated market will be unified by decree.

"The exchange losses of the Bank of Guatemala have the same effect as the budget deficit, and constitute an implicit subsidy to the government," he added.

"These losses occur when the bank makes payments on the foreign debt, because while the government pays 1 quetzal to the dollar, the bank purchases the dollars on the regulated market at 2.50 quetzales to the dollar.

"As a consequence, the difference of 1.50 quetzales represents a loss to BANGUAT," he stressed.

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PRICE INCREASE FOR ELECTRICITY SUSPENDED

Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA 23 Feb 87 p 2

[Text] The decision of the electricity sector to increase electricity rates was suspended for 4 more months on orders from President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo. This was announced by the minister of specific affairs, Prof Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo, during a meeting with the Multisectoral Commission that is studying the problem. The meeting was held last Friday in the "Los Treinta" Room of the Congress of the Republic.

In addition, any measures the electricity sector may take with regard to this service are held up until the Multisectoral Commission finishes analyzing the problems that have arisen in this area.

Also on orders from President Cerezo Arevalo, Rafael Angel Bolanos, representative of the University of San Carlos, will coordinate the Multisectoral Commission and the minister of specific affairs will serve as a liaison between it and the government. Rafael Bolanos thanked the president for this designation and indicated that he will do everything he can to solve the problem of rising electricity rates.

During the meeting, which lasted over 3 hours, various representatives of labor unions indicated that in some bills for January the rates had already been raised, and urged that steps be taken to suspend this increase, which is apparently due to what the National Institute of Electrification (INDE) and the Electricity Enterprise call the "unification of rates." It was also requested at this meeting that the electricity sectors suspend advertising in the mass media, that current rates be lowered, and that customers be reimbursed for the rate increases reflected in their December and January bills.

The Multisectoral Commission is made up of the government sector (executive and legislative branches), the University of San Carlos, the unions, the INDE, the Electricity Enterprise, the Coordinating Committee of Agricultural, Commercial, Industrial, and Financial Associations (CACIF), and the National Agriculture-Livestock Union (UNAGRO).

The Multisectoral Commission will meet next Friday 27 February, at which time the representative of the University of San Carlos and coordinator of the commission has promised to submit some technical and analytical studies conducted by the institution of higher learning. In addition, Mayor Alvaro Arzu Irigoyen of Guatemala City will be called in to explain the increase in municipal electricity rates, as reflected on some bills that customers received for the month of January of this year.

GUATEMALA

QUINONES ANNOUNCES FAVORABLE UN HUMAN RIGHTS VOTE

Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 21 Mar 87 p 2

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 21 March--Guatemalan Foreign Minister Mario Quinones announced at a press conference that according to a declaration by the United Nations, our country is no longer among those countries which do not respect human rights. In the vote by the international organization, Guatemala was supported by Latin America, Europe, and the United States.

The foreign minister stated: "The world is now confident that human rights will continue to be respected in Guatemala, and these rights will be observed in the country."

Nonetheless, he said, only for reasons of methodology the United Nations has agreed to advise Guatemala on matters of human rights.

This means that there may be training courses for all people involved in this area for judges, etc. In other words, the United Nations will provide any kind of consultation on this matter to whoever is interested.

The foreign minister emphasized that "it is a real triumph for Guatemala to have our country removed from Category 12 of the United Nations regulations."

This inspires confidence abroad with regard to the continued respect for human rights.

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QUINONES SEEKS TO DISCUSS IMMIGRATION ISSUES WITH U.S.

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 2 Apr 87 p 2

[Text] Minister of Foreign Relations Mario Quinones Amezquita will request a hearing at the U.S. Department of Labor to deal with matters related to the Guatemalan immigrants who are living in that country illegally.

The foreign minister stated that at present there is no precise idea of how the new Simpson-Rodino Act will affect Guatemalans, because there are no statistics on those who are illegally residing in the United States.

"Guatemala," he added, "could not request a moratorium on the enforcement of the Simpson-Rodino Act. We can only express the government's concern and request that they inform us in advance how many of our compatriots will be deported," he added.

Quinones Amezquita stated that "it would be risky to try to guess the number of immigrants, because there is no basis for an estimate."

"There may be about 3,000 Guatemalans in the United States, although we do not know how many of them have met the requirements to remain in the United States," he concluded.

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REACTION TO U.S. CONGRESSIONAL REPORT ON JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Judge Terms Report 'Interference'

San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 26 Feb 87 p 11

[Text] Yesterday, the judge of the first instance for criminal proceedings in this district, Carlos Enrique Bueso, described the severe criticism made of the Honduran judicial branch by the U.S. Congress, in a report published by that body, as obvious interference in the affairs of the former.

According to Judge Bueso, that report is obsolete and lacking in timeliness; because to date there has been no evidence that would attest to the presence of widespread, systematized corruption within the Honduran judicial branch.

He said that, although it is true that corruption existed during the previous term, that is no indication that it still exists; because, he claims, that was a thing of the past, and now the judicial branch's image has become rectified with the formation of a new Supreme Court and the appointment of a president who is typified by being honest, capable, and upright in his actions.

The judicial official also noted that it is untrue, as well, that people are disappearing in Honduras for political reasons, and that if there were any, it was during other regimes of the past, and not the present one. "Therefore, I repeat that this report is obsolete and lacking in any reality."

Bueso remarked: "The only place in which the 'gringos' are correct is when they state in their report that we have a penal code that has just been legislated, but not published."

Moreover, Judge Bueso is of the opinion that the Supreme Court of Justice must create an inspection department to take responsibility for overseeing the administration of justice in the various courts of the republic.

He noted that this department should be made up of proven and capable professionals and that no efforts or economic resources should be spared to create an entity of this type; because it would help to eradicate the entire bad image that the judicial branch has been carrying since past times.

### **Further Reportage on 'Interference'**

**San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Feb 87 p 4**

[Text] San Pedro Sula--Yesterday, some local judges reacted to the report from the Congress of the United States, which questions the administration of our justice, considering it defective in its practice and inconvenient in its implementation, among other charges.

The judges who participated in the consultation agreed with the president of the Supreme Court of Justice, Salomon Jimenez Castro, who, upon appointing a commission to investigate the charges of the American congressmen, commented: "What the 'gringos' say does not worry us, because they are from a foreign country which should not interfere in the affairs of Hondurans."

The aforementioned report, which is certainly long, also indicates that the Honduran justice system is slow, inequitable, and politically influenced; after noting that the professional attorney in Honduras exists in theory, but that the system is not efficient in practice.

However, Carlos Enrique Bueso Pineda, who heads the court of the first instance for criminal proceedings here, agreeing with the view of his colleague, Jimenez Castro, remarked that, at present, the Honduran justice system has recovered from the attempts at discreditation that it might have received during the past administration.

Nevertheless, he claimed that there was lack of confidence in the implementation of justice, but that this situation related, rather, to those remote regions where the judges and the judicial system were not the target of a press that criticizes misconduct.

Claiming that the criticism made by the U.S. Congress does not apply to his court, Bueso Pineda nevertheless maintains that the Honduran judicial branch should be implemented with judicial inspection agencies, with extensive powers to examine the professional conduct of the administrators of justice.

The head of the tenancy court of the first instance, Fatima Perdomo de Fajardo, claimed that the questioning by the American Congress has no national significance, "but it should concern us, because it is a meddling in our system of life and government."

She said that, in the report that she recently sent to the Supreme Court of Justice, the speedy action of that court to meet its obligations had been noted; but it was complained that, if some cases were delayed, it was due to the fact that the conflicting parties have not given them the necessary impetus.

As an exception, the head of the labor court of the first instance, Bertha Alicia Orellana, despite the fact that this is one of the most agitated courts, by its nature, did not wish to receive the representatives from LA PRENSA. The other judges are almost never in their offices when they are sought by reporters.

### CGT Official Attacks Report

San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Feb 87 p 4

[Text] Tegucigalpa--Felicitto Avila Ordonez, assistant secretary of the General Central Organization of Workers [CGT], declared that the foreign ministry should assume a firm position and reject the views of the United States Congress regarding justice in the country.

The labor leader commented on a report prepared by a special commission of the American Congress, in which it is claimed that the administration of justice in Honduras is defective and has too many gaps.

According to Avila Ordonez, they have reached an extreme, "passing judgment on a matter that is incumbent solely on Hondurans, because no one here officially comments on that nation's internal affairs."

He maintained that the position of the United States Congress is an assault upon the nation's sovereignty, "because, although we are an underdeveloped country, that does not mean that we deserve to be disrespected," he added.

He stressed that the foreign ministry should act immediately, contacting the body which issued the document to declare that the economic and military aid being provided by the United States Government does not give any license for intervention of this type.

He added that solidarity is one thing, and that insolence for interfering in the internal situations of a sovereign nation is something else.

### UNAH Rector Supports Report

San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Feb 87 p 5

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa--The rector of the Autonomous National University of Honduras (UNAH), Oswaldo Ramos Soto, claims that the American congressmen are not incorrect when they question the administration of justice in Honduras, compared with that of their country.

Ramos Soto said that the opinions of those congressmen are not mistaken, when they note that the administration of justice in Honduras is slow, inequitable, and politicized, "but that does not mean that we are putting the blame on the present public administration."

He stressed: "That is a result of a great deal of improvisation and sectarianism in the administration of justice in Honduras, but we cannot stand by idly, waiting for compliance with the law to fall on us from heaven."

Ramos Soto commented that, when an American arrives in Honduras, and the system and administration of justice are explained to him, he is shocked, because, in the United States, the people represent the fundamental supremacy of the law, and the imparting of justice lies in the judges and courts, without partisan political intervention.

2909

CSO: 3248/235

13th PRI ASSEMBLY OCCASIONS INTERNAL DEMOCRACY DEBATE

'Fifth Column,' 'Trojan Horses' Rejected

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 5 Mar 87 pp 1-A, 10-A, 11-A

[Text of address by Jorge de la Vega Dominguez, president of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), at 13th PRI National Assembly, 4 March]

[Text] Mr President of the Republic, the national leader of the Institutional Revolutionary Party; my fellow party members:

1. Basic Resolutions

The 13th National Assembly has been held in an atmosphere of wideranging democratic participation, rigorous criticism and spirit of change that will enable our party to meet the challenges of difficult times.

We have reaffirmed the tenets of our Declaration of Principles, which reflect the values for which the people of Mexico are struggling.

We have approved the reforms to the Program of Action that are necessary to meet the demands of our activists, ensure the achievement of the goals of our organization and lay a solid groundwork for the formulation of our election platform in 1988.

We have modified the bylaws to foster the influence and activities of our members, to improve the conditions for the political involvement of women and young people and to broaden party democracy.

In accordance with the supreme mandates that govern our political life, we have discussed, debated and reached agreements that will enable us to lend greater consistency, dynamism and strength to our institution.

As the party of the revolution, we assume the responsibility of seeing to it that the just demands of our sectors, which embody the demands of the masses, are transformed into acts of government.

Faithful to its historic duty, the assembly has resolved to struggle continuously in defense of national sovereignty, for the enrichment of our democracy, for the well-being of the people and for revolutionary nationalism.

## 2. The World and External Context

The task is not simple, nor can it be accomplished immediately. Thwarting it are the struggles for hegemony, the accelerated technological change and the commercial and financial inequality that all characterize international relations. The economic problems of the great powers and the hardening of their politics are realities that are hindering progress on our national agenda.

The exhaustion of the traditional economic model in light of current circumstances and the acute imbalances that it has produced are powerful obstacles on our road to development.

Therefore, we will continue to grapple with the adverse effects of the serious domestic and international events that affect us.

## 3. Economic Development and Social Justice

Within the framework of modernization and structural change, we support the policy of encouraging productive investment and job growth, which will enable us to boost wages, make headway in industrial reconversion, strengthen the domestic market, decentralize national life, export and resolve the foreign debt problem in keeping with our interests. Economic recession is not compatible with our social and demographic development.

We contend that the buying power of the nation's masses must urgently be restored. Rural development, jobs and realistic wages are the true underpinning of a sound domestic market. They must be the result of sustained economic growth and the modernization of production.

We must reorder our priorities. Let us begin with the most elementary of them: the right to eat, the most pressing demand of the working classes. We support the workers of Mexico in their bid to have this right enshrined in the General Constitution of the Republic and upheld in daily life.

We must struggle to raise the living standard of the low-income classes. We will not accept the arguments or the pressures of those who are concerned only about their own financial interests. We demand just treatment, the opening of markets and profitable prices for our products.

Mexico has always honored its commitments to other countries and has always subordinated them to national sovereignty and the national interest. We acknowledge that the government of the republic has achieved the finest negotiating terms that any country has ever hammered out with its creditors, and we support its position of meeting our financial obligations without renouncing the inalienable right to first satisfy the essential needs of our people. We will not accept additional sacrifices.

The party advocates paying only the minimum amount of interest on the foreign debt that will insure a continued flow of fresh funds that the nation needs for its development.

#### 4. National Sovereignty

The international situation is becoming increasingly difficult. Bloody regional wars are threatening to spread, and the legal principles on which the world order is based are being abandoned. Commitments are being ignored, and attempts are being made to destroy the United Nations system, one of mankind's greatest accomplishments.

Our foreign policy is consistent with the principles, needs and aspirations of the Mexican nation. Therefore, our party regards it as essential to explain, publicize and support this policy.

#### 5. Activities of the Party and of the Government

The times in which we live demand calm judgment and concrete action. The ultimate objective is to keep the agenda of the revolution alive so that we can meet the just aspirations of the national community. Let us maintain power democratically to serve the people better.

The political unity of PRI members is the key to making headway and solving problems and shortcomings that are serious and age-old but not insurmountable. We have answers, we have invigorated republican institutions, we are promoting a restructuring of the system of production and we are pursuing a social policy of support for low-income groups. We are confronting the present and preparing to meet the challenges of the future.

Freedom, democracy and justice are the groundwork of our philosophy and our actions. Freedom as a political maxim, democracy as a norm of coexistence and social justice as a permanent aspiration.

We are opposed to injustice by historic conviction and out of political and economic realism. The people will follow us as standard-bearers in the struggles for social equality.

New and more solid foundations of political organization, supported by strong and broad grassroots participation, are needed to solve our problems. The only legitimate form of national growth must come about through a broadening of democratic channels.

Comprehensive renovation has been the government of the revolution's response: moral renovation, decentralization of national life, political and judicial reform, economic overhaul, structural change and industrial reconversion.

#### 6. The Institution of President and the Party

We have been able to undertake this great historic task because we have a solid, stable and democratic political system.

The presidency of the republic and our party are the two fundamental institutions of the Mexican political system. They have enabled us to overcome obstacles and to move forward even under the most difficult circumstances.

Our adversaries would like to discredit a system whose power lies in the fulfillment of the spirit and letter of the constitution. Therein lies the strength of presidentialism in Mexico. It is the indissoluble link between government and party, because the constitution is the foundation and the program, the present and the future of our people.

The most responsible and progressive movements that lend meaning to the dynamics of the nation converge in the institution of president.

Those who feel that democracy demands taking powers away from the Federal Executive Branch are unaware that it is an institution that has emerged from our history and is a powerful instrument of our collective will.

The presidential system is a modern expression of representative democracy. In our history it is the indisputable embodiment of national legitimacy.

Nothing is more undesirable than anarchy or authoritarianism. Our presidential system, adhering to the principle of no reelection, has demonstrated its effectiveness and its ability to improve as the centerpiece of our political organization.

The National Revolutionary Party under Plutarco Calles, the Party of the Mexican Revolution under Lazaro Cardenas and the Institutional Revolutionary Party under Miguel de la Madrid have been and are, in periods of major problems, the great national front, the great institution of progressive forces to guarantee Mexico's revolutionary progress.

Today the institution of president is undertaking great tasks and successfully meeting the challenges facing the nation with patriotism and a lofty sense of responsibility.

President Miguel de la Madrid has exercised national leadership with exemplary adherence to the law, respect for civilian society, steadiness and desire for renovation. Let us show increasing solidarity with his government.

In addition to chief of state and head of government, the president is also the national leader of our largest political organization. His guidance lends us internal cohesion, and his strong activism amid our ranks bolsters our party's political struggle.

The institution of president and the party, which arose from the same revolutionary process and are inspired by the goals of national sovereignty and well-being for the people, have made a steady contribution to a greater Mexico.

Today, 4 March, marks the 58th year that our party has guided the nation's ideology and been the living link between the demands of the people and the government.

Therefore, our party is not a utopian organization or an abstract apparatus. It emerged 58 years ago from real, restless and demanding forces in Mexican society that undertook the world's first major social revolution this century.

Therefore, the party is the fruit, the reflection and the tool of a clear and undeniable majority of the people, who have made headway and demanded greater resolve, effort, capacity and effectiveness in overcoming obstacles, delays, impoverishment, debt, shortcomings and inequalities.

Therefore, the huge, genuine and admirable majority of the people who support PRI, though minorities may deny it and show annoyance, demand clearheadedness in tackling problems; they demand straightforwardness, human sensitivity and social responsiveness of their leaders in identifying, formulating and carrying out programs with respect, confidence and justice.

PRI's great successes and the patriotism of the presidents of the republic have been the thread running through the social achievements and the constant betterment of Mexico's democratic institutions.

## 7. National Unity

This is the assembly of revolutionary unity of the nation.

This is the assembly of PRI unity around Miguel de la Madrid.

On 4 March 1929, President Calles gathered together, in the great front of the National Revolutionary Party, all of the grassroots forces that had triumphed in the armed struggle. Today, as we celebrate this anniversary of our political organization, the great coalition of Mexico's revolutionaries gathers together once again.

At this party ceremony we respectfully salute two outstanding members of our organization, former Presidents Luis Echeverria Alvarez and Jose Lopez-Portillo.

President Miguel de la Madrid's constitutional reforms and the new Federal Election Code are consistent with the tradition of perfecting our democracy.

The political renovation calls on us to forge unity amid plurality and common ground amid dissent, always looking out for the supreme interest of the nation.

## 8. Democracy and Party Discipline

The position papers, deliberations and conclusions of this assembly show that we are an organization that is sure of its identity and its principles and, by the same token, capable of heeding all of the concerns of its members. We are a party that is solidly united by our internal democracy.

During this assembly we have debated all ideas, regardless of who developed them. We have promoted change when the majority regarded change as necessary. In our deliberations we have made allowance for neither do-nothingism because it is conservative, nor for wishful thinking because it is futile.

Participating in the assembly, with their acknowledged strength, were the various sectors and their organizations; our long-standing activists, with the prudence and wisdom that come with time; our mature members, with their creativity, and our young people, with their imagination and drive. Particular recognition should go to our women members, who enriched all of the working commissions with their intuition, talent and enthusiasm.

The members of PRI have expressed their ideas and their demands. The National Executive Committee endorses them and can tell them categorically that it pledges to carry them forward. These mutually shared commitments represent the party's new course of action, as we put forth great efforts that will lend prestige to politics and to our organization and that will enable us to show that we respect all those who do not think as we do. We will not cease to be a majority. The people decide who the majority is and the people are behind the Mexican Revolution and its party.

We are now undergoing a renovation so that we can adapt to the new conditions of the social and political struggle. A desire for change prevails among us. We will continue along the path charted by the masses. We will sidestep the devious paths that adversaries and insignificant minorities would chart for us.

Many are discussing the issue of democracy, but some confuse very valid theoretical debate with proposals for political action. Democracy is linked to the existence or the idiosyncrasy of the community in which it is practiced. No political system can be established indiscriminately in one country and another alike. Once it is established, it becomes part of the history and the life of each community.

There are those who confuse a democratic opening with disorder, failing to bear in mind that disorder would benefit the oligarchies and tiny groups or individuals who serve only private interests.

In many meetings over the past few months, at the preparatory meetings of this assembly and in all of the working commissions that addressed the issues of paramount importance to our party and to the nation, we have advocated the broadest opening so that those who wished to do so could express themselves with absolute freedom. We have already given national public opinion clear-cut evidence that we have fostered every avenue of participation.

Yesterday, at the plenary session of this assembly, the resolutions adopted in the eight working commissions were approved unanimously, with an express mandate to the National Executive Committee to apply internal discipline to make sure that they are enforced.

All members of PRI should realize that we will fully carry out the sovereign mandate that we have been given. To this end we urge our fellow party members to live up to their responsibility. In particular, we invite all those who expressed and supported positions that the assembly rejected.

All members of PRI should realize that we will bolster our party's sectoral structure and that other political groups or facades outside it do not and will not have a place.

The activities in which we are engaged show us that among Mexicans there can be political adversaries but not personal enemies, much less so in a party in which we are all committed to working for more democracy and just well-being. There must be no disunity, rifts or futile struggles in this task. Always contribute and never detract is the watchword.

I call on you, friends and fellow party members, to close ranks with the national leadership. I call on you to keep our unity and our internal discipline strong and untouchable.

Attempts to undermine our cohesiveness and structure could arise as the elections draw near.

I pledge to the leadership and to all of the members of our great organization that I will unhesitatingly carry out the resolution to preserve internal order and unity.

We will not tolerate people who invoke the democracy that we practice to throw our party activities into disarray.

From this great assembly we say to all those who henceforth choose not to respect the will of the overwhelming majority of PRI members, that they should resign from our party and affiliate with other political organizations.

Those of us who belong to PRI are citizens who are determined to comply fully with the standards of conduct and action that we agree upon.

Neither a fifth column nor Trojan horses will have a place in PRI.

In the exercise of our fruitful internal democracy we will not waste our time combating inconsequential minorities or individuals who have other goals, other purposes and other banners. We will struggle united against our adversaries on the outside. And the door is open for our adversaries on the inside, if there are any, to go wherever best suits their personal interests.

Henceforth we will concern ourselves with political tasks of the greatest national significance, which demand unity, discipline in complying with resolutions and combativeness.

## **9. The Presidential Succession and the Party Leadership**

This is our party's preparatory assembly for the forthcoming election. We organized it to strengthen ourselves, to begin the process of selecting our candidates, to make sure that they triumph and to retain political power.

Over almost four decades of active involvement in our party, I have learned both the written and the unwritten rules of our politics. Therefore, having won reelection as president of the National Executive Committee, I want to express to all my colleagues that this is the loftiest commitment of my political career, that my sole ambition is to be a good party leader so that I can strengthen it and that I aspire to be nothing more and nothing less.

As a Mexican citizen and as a member of PRI I fully reaffirm my commitment to serve with loyalty, enthusiasm, determination and patriotism. To coordinate the efforts of the great grassroots coalition that is our party to insure its triumphs is a special honor and an outstanding opportunity that I will take full and orthodox advantage of.

I will discharge my responsibility with complete loyalty to our principles and to our national leader, President Miguel de la Madrid.

Based on our unity and our internal strength, we will scrupulously respect the rules, the timetable and the pace of the electoral process. In due time, not too soon and not too late, we will choose our candidate for president of the republic, so that we can score a clean and resounding victory at the 1988 federal elections.

PRI encourages political reform and a multiparty system. In our democracy the will of the majority, which is in charge, is carried out, and the opinion and the rights of the minority are respected.

At the forthcoming elections all political parties must operate in accordance with our laws, with respect for our members, for the people, for our institutions and for Mexico.

Let us rid our political campaigns of slander, insult and defamation, which do so much harm and which we Mexicans reject because they debase the nation's politics.

Let us put before the people the ideology and the positions of each party in a campaign that ennobles our civic life.

PRI will continue on. It will honor its principles, secure in the knowledge that the people will once again choose the path of the Mexican Revolution.

During our party's long, democratic procedure of selecting a candidate, which we are beginning at this assembly, we will analyze in depth the opinion of the great organizations that represent the farmers, the workers and the people. We will familiarize ourselves with the views of our party's leadership throughout the country. We will consult the PRI members who hold popularly

elected posts. We will carefully identify the sentiments of the people and listen to the guidance of the national leader of our political institution.

I can assert that at this point in time certain distinguished fellow party members, owing to their convictions, their political experience and their performance in public office, are regarded by national public opinion as potential candidates for president of the republic. Their names are already being mentioned and written about in the most widely read and listened to mass media.

PRI does not engage in secret or mysterious procedures in nominating its candidates, because it is a party that battles with its face to the people to carry out the mandate of the broad rank and file that sustains it.

Our party's maturity and national influence will once again enable us to successfully meet the thrilling challenge of a presidential succession in timely fashion, with grassroots support, with patriotism and with a vision of the future.

#### 10. Appeal to Members of PRI

Mr President of the Republic and national leader of our party, my fellow party members:

The leadership of PRI consists of Mexicans of proven conviction and political experience. I call on all of you to work loyally around President Miguel de la Madrid so that we can move forward in the revolutionary nationalism that we espouse.

I call on all of our party's activists to take part in a great national mobilization.

I call on you to consolidate and broaden our rank and file membership, to perfect our democracy and to prepare ourselves better to continue representing in government the majority will of the Mexican people.

Governors and the head of the Department of the Federal District:

I address myself to you because you are leaders of our party in the states of the federation and in the Federal District. Hence, you have the highest responsibility to invigorate the life of our institution, to implement the working program that we have jointly approved and to ensure victory in the forthcoming elections.

I call on you as members of PRI to spur the activities of each of our sectors and, in them, to enhance and provide greater opportunities for the involvement of women and young people.

The regional coordinators and the entire National Executive Committee will work with you, with our state, municipal, district and sectional leaders; with our delegates, with our peasant leaders in all the ejidos [Indian community-

held farmlands] and rural communities; with labor leaders in all workplaces; with the leaders of the middle classes throughout the country.

We will work with unity, conviction and enthusiasm in this great crusade for democracy and civic life in the nation.

Ladies and gentlemen of our party:

Let us struggle alongside Miguel de la Madrid!  
Let us struggle for the neediest of our fellow countrymen!  
Let us struggle to triumph in the elections!  
Let us struggle to keep the revolution in government!  
Let us struggle for Mexico's greatness!

'Political Renovation' Stressed

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 5 Mar 87 pp 1-A, 19-A, 31-A

[Text of address by President Miguel de la Madrid at 13th PRI National Assembly, 4 March]

[Text] Fellow party members:

I would like to express to you how happy and heartened I am to be meeting here with you.

I congratulate Jorge de la Vega Dominguez for the manner in which he has organized this national assembly of our party. His proven activism, his political conviction and his revolutionary practice have no doubt been decisive factors in assuring this assembly's very successful results.

With this assembly PRI once again proves that it remains the standard-bearer and promoter of change, persevering in the fundamental principles of the Mexican Revolution but always demonstrating its ability to adapt to new circumstances and to meet new challenges.

Our party has never espoused do-nothingism or dogmatism. It has been faithful to the basic principles of the Mexican Revolution, but it has always been prepared to reassess strategies and tactics in light of the dynamic circumstances in a developing country, as Mexico has been since the revolution.

Today's watchword is national renovation. Mexico needs to renovate every aspect of its society, and this poses a challenge of considerable magnitude to us. Change does not frighten us because we have promoted it.

The political renovation with the municipal reform, the reform of the structure of the Congress of the Union, the electoral reform, the proposal for a representative assembly of the Federal District, these are all challenges that PRI itself has promoted for the nation but they are primarily a challenge to ourselves.

Yes, PRI wants to keep the Mexican Revolution in power, but as part of an ever broader and ever better democracy.

No one is more interested than PRI in improving elections, in ridding them of flaws, in vouching cleanly and transparently for the legitimacy of the government of the revolution.

We know how to win cleanly because we have the majority of the nation behind us, because the majority of the nation knows that we defend the historic principles of our political evolution, that what we have to offer is feasible and responsible and that we do not seek to win over the will of the people through demagoguery, deceit or disguised ideologies.

We also face serious challenges in renovating our structures and our economic system. We need to make our economy strong and sound again so that we can base development and social justice on it.

Hence, we must continue to persevere in meeting the challenge of putting public finances in order, in restructuring and modernizing the public sector, in reassessing our trade policy and protectionism, and in decentralizing national life. At the same time as we tackle our burdensome short-range problems, we must continue to pursue the structural change that Mexican society requires.

We must balance economic restructuring and renovation with attention to social development. We have done so. We have protected and assigned priority to low-income food and supply programs, education programs, health care programs and environmental programs. Naturally, we are not satisfied with the pace of what we are doing. Limited funding has forced us to do what we can, not what we would like.

In foreign policy we will continue to observe the fundamental principles of the Mexican state: respect for the self-determination of peoples, nonintervention, the peaceful settlement of disputes, and international cooperation for development.

Therefore, we must not let up in our struggle for peace and disarmament, in support of law and international institutions, for the pacification of Central America, for Latin American solidarity, for international cooperation to overcome the world crisis and to resume equitable development in a climate of friendship and peace among all nations.

These are the challenges, these are the tasks. Our party offers realistic and viable solutions. We cannot lapse into demagoguery.

We reaffirm our commitments to the fundamental causes of the nation, to the masses, to the Mexican people, to women and to young people.

My fellow party members, let us continue to defend the independence and sovereignty of the nation. Let us publicize and modernize the ideology of the revolution. Let us expand democracy. Let us maintain our freedoms. Let us enforce the constitutional order and let us foster, as the party of the

revolution has done, concord and solidarity among all Mexicans. Let us respect our adversaries, but let us convince the majority of the people that the principles of the Mexican Revolution are still the valid, logical choice for guiding national development.

We have an ideology, we have an organization, a capacity for political mobilization and clear-cut programs. So then, let us maintain the confidence of the people of Mexico through our daily work as the party and government of the Mexican Revolution. In the face of adversity the Mexican people grow stronger; in the face of difficulties they strengthen our national sovereignty and are not led astray by options that do not represent Mexico's genuine roots and do not have faith in its destiny.

Long live the Mexican Revolution!

On this Wednesday, 4 March 1987, I am pleased to declare the work of the 13th National Assembly of the Institutional Revolutionary Party officially closed.

#### Cardenas Differs With PRI Leader

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 9 Mar 87 pp 1-A, 11-A

[Text of "open letter" by former Governor of Michoacan Cuauhtemoc Cardenas to PRI members; date not indicated]

[Text] "To the members of the Institutional Revolutionary Party:

"The address by the president of the National Executive Committee of PRI, Jorge de la Vega Dominguez, at the closing session of the 13th General Assembly of the Party, heralds for the party a period of antidemocratic authoritarianism, of intolerance and, therefore, of regression that runs counter to the spirit and letter of the party's own Declaration of Principles and, above all, counter to the spirit, tradition and conduct of the men who are truly committed to the ideas and deeds of the Mexican Revolution.

"He directly contradicts the president of the republic, who at the same ceremony stated:

"'Our party has never espoused do-nothingism and dogmatism...It has always been prepared to reassess strategies and tactics in light of the dynamic circumstances in a developing country, as Mexico has been since the revolution...'

"'Yes, PRI wants to keep the Mexican Revolution in power, but as part of an ever broader and ever better democracy.'

"'No one is more interested than PRI in improving elections, in ridding them of flaws, in vouching cleanly and transparently for the legitimacy of the government of the revolution' (end of quote from the president's remarks).

"A discussion of ideas and an analysis of alternatives for action and work ought to be permanent tasks of democratic organizations.

"Working procedures and decision-making mechanisms cannot be regarded as short-term issues in such organizations, inasmuch as they are part of a political ideology and a political purpose.

"To isolate the party's most important decision-making, on the pretext that unwritten rules must be learned, is to consciously trample on the fundamental democratic rights of party members. At the same time, it is tantamount to serving as a fifth column and a Trojan horse that will sap the strength of the organization by betraying its principles and handing it over to reactionaries.

"Moreover, to accept, as Deputy Murillo Karam argued in one of the assembly's working commissions, that the party's internal democratization entails the risk of losing power, would be tantamount to admitting that our government, in order to remain in power, must evolve towards an oligarchy, a dictatorship, an aristocracy. As I see it, the force and authority of a party, the force and authority of a government, increase as the forms of participation in decision-making and action become more democratic.

"Real social and political support comes from independent, not conditioned minds. This indeed is a lesson of our history; this is the lesson that stems from the great grassroots struggles that have forged the nation: Independence, Reform and Revolution.

"In meeting with party activists all over the country in recent months, we have confirmed the existence of a broad current of independent and revolutionary thought and of profound nationalistic, grassroots and democratic convictions.

"Those of us who share this common ground are determined to struggle to broaden and fully exercise national sovereignty, to see to it that the masses achieve the standards of living that they can and are entitled to achieve in accordance with their capacities, the country's resources and the opportunities for equitable international cooperation; to see to it that each and every Mexican can exercise his rights without impediment and fulfill the obligations that the law sets forth; and also to lift the Institutional Revolutionary Party out of the rut of dogmatism and intolerance and back to the path of democracy and concord.

"Faithful to the party's principles and to our own convictions, we have sincerely sought to cooperate to expand democracy in the party, exercising the rights that are enshrined in Article 17, Paragraphs 2, 4 and 5 of the bylaws.

"Ours has always been a straightforward, clean and loyal struggle of principles.

"The antidemocratic excesses and intransigence that are the norms of conduct of the party's highest representatives are preventing all dignified and respectful cooperation with them.

"To yield on principles, to lapse into opportunism, to tolerate indignities would be to betray the revolutionary commitment.

"Threats do not daunt us; there is no moral authority behind them.

"The battle lines have been drawn. The rank and file of the party, like the great majority of the Mexican people, have been, are and will remain democratic and revolutionary in spite of the hardheadedness and deviations of transient leaders.

"We will continue our struggle with the strength that is born of conviction and of being in the right.

"[Signed] Cuauhtemoc Cardenas"

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CSO: 3248/261

PROBLEMS OF UNITY, TERRORISM, FOREIGN DEBT DISCUSSED

Lima EL NACIONAL (Sunday Supplement PRIMERA LINEA) in Spanish 1 Mar 87 pp 2-3

[Text] On Monday, 20 February, the president of the republic issued an appeal for joint work with the United Left based on recognition of the major influence this political front has in the popular strata.

It should be noted, however, that the appeal was not for joint government, but rather a recommendation that the base levels both of the APRA and the IU undertake a fruitful rapprochement which will make the drafting of a national proposal with a popular profile viable.

This presidential move was positive in that it pertains to 90 percent of the national citizenry. But words will not be enough if what is wanted is to go beyond mere verbiage or intentions.

In this connection, then, it must be recognized that the government evidences a certain exhaustion in terms of its capacity to generate support, first, and a certain mystique, secondly, especially in the urban sector.

It is a known fact that the government policy is oriented toward emphasis on the rural sector. And it must be admitted that there is a real and noble effort to rescue the peasant and the rural community from the situation of neglect from which they have suffered for centuries.

But on the other hand, it must not be forgotten that there are also vast impoverished sectors in the cities, whose quality of life is not much different from that of their rural counterparts. With one added factor--the social morphology we are seeing in present-day Peru is such that policy is determined in the urban sector.

These then are the reasons for the importance of adopting measures to favor the neediest classes, and in this way to move toward a rapprochement between the sectors to which the president has appealed.

What would these measures be?

There are several, but they all have one common denominator. They will mean, to a greater or lesser extent, a confrontation with the powerful groups which

have economic strength and which have remained untouched. It suffices to note that 5 percent of the owners of the means of production account for 70 percent of the gross industrial product of the nation.

In some cases, the adoption of these measures may have an economic cost, but the counterpart is the resulting political yield and mystique to which they would lead.

This is the case with the possible expropriation of the Southern Peru Copper Corporation.

It is claimed that in truly economic terms, its expropriation is not desirable because of the low price of copper on the international market, and because it could be bought more cheaply on the New York stock market. It is possible that this is true. But it is also true that this is a temporary situation. Ore prices are neither static nor permanent. They may go up at any time, and this is the reason it is desirable for the state to retain control over the exploitation of its natural resources.

Another important sector, and one the government has dealt with, but without real positive results, has to do with medicine, an important and especially sensitive factor in popular health.

Visibly, the laboratories, 90 percent of them internationally owned, have no interest in reducing the prices of the most commonly used medicines and those classified as "essential" by the Ministry of Health. They accept the demands of the government, accede to them for a time, and then simply cease to produce the drug in the form the Ministry requires. It thus becomes impossible for the hospitals and health centers to obtain it.

The fact is that they have found that the best business in the world is possible in Peru, a country which has had an invasion of more than 7,000 patent medicines, which are now on sale, while countries such as France, for example, have not many more than 800.

It is necessary, then, to take steps to make medicines cheaper. To begin with, the indiscriminate import of drugs would have to be prohibited, and then, to deal with the problem decisively, the nationalization of the pharmaceutical industry should be begun.

It is believed that this might create a short supply of the "active ingredients" with which medicines are produced and which must be imported. This will happen if the steps the situation requires are not taken, but very certainly, there will always be laboratories somewhere in the world which will have no problem in selling us what we need, and without the overbilling which is presently being practiced with impunity the consequent flight of foreign exchange, by the international companies which make up our "national industry."

At one point, Minister of Health David Tejada said that the government was prepared to "take steps" to safeguard public health. Well then, it would seem that it is now time for this to be done, without half measures, energetically,

in the certainty that the people will enthusiastically support the measures and will be prepared to deal with the risks it involved.

Obviously, on a parallel basis, our capacity to produce the "active ingredients" must be strengthened, so that we will be self-sufficient and have an export potential. This cannot be achieved in the short run, but it is necessary to begin to shape this different future which Peru needs in the health sector. And there appears to be movement in this direction.

These are two of the various steps which could be taken to benefit the people and which are likely to bring the two most representative political organizations in the country closer together.

However, this rapprochement must also come about through the will of the other parties. In other words the IU, the leaders of which would also have to adopt a concrete position in this regard. In this case, and because it is the most urgent issue, what is needed is a definite position with regard to terrorism.

It is true that Alfonso Barrantes has condemned it categorically. But except for the position stated by the former mayor, major leaders of the Marxist front, such as Javier Diez Canseco, have refused to adopt a definite attitude toward the subversive phenomenon.

Their pretext for avoiding a definition is the priority being given to condemnation of police repression and the defense of human rights.

The truth is that the position of the left would be much more solid in this realm if it were to voice its rejection of terrorism, calling it by its true name, with full clarity. In this way it would add to its moral authority for condemning repressive excesses, thus contributing more effectively to the battle in defense of human rights.

This position would contribute to creating an atmosphere of popular unity and to isolating the more conservative sectors of the APRA and the ultraleftists to be found under some of the leftist unity canopies.

#### Del Prado's Guerrilla War

In connection with this subject, and speaking of reality, note should be taken of the statements made by the secretary general of the Communist Party, Jorge del Prado, in an interview in EL NACIONAL, warning of the possibility that his organization will "move on to direct armed struggle." And this is notable not because the PCP, ideologically, rejects armed struggle as a revolutionary method, but because throughout its political history, it has never deemed it necessary to take up arms.

The radicalism of Don Jorge, then, can only be explained by reasons of internal politics within his party as it approaches the holding of its ninth congress in May.

It is a known fact that it is much more profitable, in the leftist parties, to "play the extremist card" when a party event is approaching, and thus to

appear "consistent," without really having the slightest serious intention of doing what is proclaimed.

It is for this reason that the words of Senator del Prado should not alarm anyone. For while it is indeed true that there are communist strata which are not in agreement with the line adopted by the leadership in the political sector and which tend to seek more radical forms of struggle, it is equally true that any dissident movement in this direction would be rapidly and completely stifled through the control and discipline systems within the party structure.

#### New Debt Partners

The failure of the Second Cruzado Plan forced President Sarney to adopt the decision to suspend payment of the foreign debt, the largest on the continent, totaling \$108 billion.

And with that decision, matters have begun to take on a different hue for the creditors club. Brazil is an economic giant which cannot be frightened by more or less harsh "sanctions." With their hands tied and unable to act along that line, the creditor countries and bank have no alternative but to deal with the matter on a political basis. This is the kind of treatment which suits all the debtors, large and small, including Peru.

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CSO:3348/234

PCP SEES NEED TO INITIATE DIRECT ARMED STRUGGLE

Lima EL NACIONAL in Spanish 25 Feb 87 pp 11-13

[Interview with Peruvian Communist Party Secretary General Jorge del Prado by Zoraida Portillo; date and place not given]

[Text] "As things are, we too believe that it will be necessary to initiate direct armed struggle," Jorge del Prado, secretary general of the Peruvian Communist Party and republican senator, said with a perfectly straight face. Just a few moments previously, he had told us of the intention to establish self-defense committees "to defend Peruvian society against the danger of fascization which can be glimpsed in the actions of the government." And it occurred to us that these statements, if made by any other leftist leader, would not have been as overwhelming in importance by far as they are coming from "Comrade Jorge," as he is known in the popular movement, of which he is one of the most typical spokesman.

This legendary leader, who is extremely concerned because, in his view, the raids on the universities are but one more symptom of the growing militarism and fascization, explained in this interview that there are three sectors in the realm of antiterrorist strategy: the Pentagon-like Armed Forces sector, the McCarthyite APRA, and the Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso).

[Question] Senator del Prado, in its last statement, the Peruvian Communist Party warned of the danger posed by the effort to make Peruvian society more fascist. What facts, apart from the raids on the universities, have led the Political Commission of your party to be concerned about this danger?

[Answer] In brief, our basic concern is focused on the type of strategy the government is using to combat terrorism. It has a mistaken strategic concept which will only lead it to play the game of the Shining Path. If the searches at the universities were an isolated phenomenon, if there had not been similar preceding incidents, there would have been insufficient factors for alarm.

[Question] The immediate background was the massacre in the prisons, which is regarded even by some Apristas as the "government blackball." In the days following, the left wing talked of a process of militarization now, and then the raids on the universities signaled the danger of "fascization." What is the difference between the two concepts?

[Answer] We do not say that the government is fascist yet, but we do warn of the danger of using fascist methods, which are being seen increasingly frequently with the searches, massive massacres and the impunity which attends all of the abuses of power. The case of those who were tortured in Cusco is a flagrant example. The intellectual and material authors of the actions are free, while those in the PIP who denounced the GC for using torture were punished. In other words, we see that the most absolute, shameless and defiant impunity exists, which suggests that in the so-called antiterrorist struggle, it is not the civilian but the military authority which commands.

[Question] Are militarization and fascization, then, two concepts with the same meaning?

[Answer] Obviously there is a convergence between the inclination of the Pentagon-like sector of the Armed Forces toward fascist authoritarianism and the authoritarianism of the McCarthy-like sector of the APRA.

[Question] But according to the terms the government leaders and the Aprista militants use about themselves, the present government is national and revolutionary, democratic and popular.

[Answer] This is for export, because I believe that the Peruvian people are not confused by these stories. It is results which count, and the results are entirely different from what is preached.

[Question] Apart from the street protests and the paid advertisements in the daily newspapers, what concrete steps does the United Left, and your party in particular, plan to offset this fascist tendency of which you warn?

[Answer] As we emphasized in our last communique, which was not for show but in response to a concrete reality, the Peruvian people have achieved a high level of unification, organization and political awareness, and in this process we have played a very important role--the trade union movement and a large part of the peasant movement, among other sectors. There is in addition the United Left, within which there is full awareness of and ability to describe what is happening now. Because of the actions of the government, we are moving on to new forms of struggle. If they continue to act in this way, then we will work for the establishment of self-defense committees, because the most basic human dignity requires a response in the same form as their aggressive actions.

[Question] Basically, what would the nature of these committees be?

[Answer] They would be bodies which are prepared to defend themselves against police attacks in the realm which the forces of repression dominate.

[Question] Is this something like a counterpart to what the president of the republic has said in recent days, urging each Peruvian to become a policeman and to denounce the presumed terrorists?

[Answer] This initiative is nothing but a cruel irony, or sarcasm, because increasingly, the people are seeing the police, the forces of repression, not

as their allies but as their enemies, not for the defense of the Shining Path, but for their own self-defense. How could the president think of asking the people to collaborate with the repressive forces, if the latter do not differentiate, and attack the people instead?

[Question] Among those arrested in the raids on the universities, were there members of the Peruvian Communist Party?

[Answer] Currently there are still about nine or 10, but initially there were many more, more than 20.

[Question] And in your opinion, what might happen to them? Is there a possibility that they have been charged with terrorism?

[Answer] No, I do not believe that our position can be viewed as supporting the Shining Path. Precisely what we are saying is that with this strategy, what the Shining Path wants is being done, in other words the political dilemma and confrontation are occurring exclusively between two sectors--the pro-Pentagon military and themselves, and the political and military command on the highest levels pursues the same strategy as the Shining Path in that the emergency zone now extends to Junin. This is one of the reasons for the arrest of the former mayor of Huancayo, Comrade Tutuy, in an effort to involve the United Left and the Communist Party in terrorist actions.

[Question] In the message broadcast a short time ago over eight radio stations, the MRTA made the same accusation, among other things, as you are making--that the Shining Path is playing the game of the government's antisubversive policy. Do you agree, then, with the MRTA?

[Answer] We have already said that a substantial differentiation must be made between the MRTA and the Shining Path. What we criticize about the MRTA is that it uses only armed struggle and has contempt for the struggle of the masses, even though in their theoretical formulations, they say otherwise. But in practice, this leads to a confusion between their actions and those of the Shining Path. But as things are, we too believe that there will be a need to initiate direct armed struggle. Now it is true that the Shining Path and the military forces are mutually playing the game of the other, and it could be said that they are allies. And here the image of "three different persons and only one true God" applies, because in the struggle there are three sectors--the pro-Pentagon Armed Forces, the McCarthyite APRA and the Shining Path, but the three converge on the same strategy.

[Question] On the basis of what you have said, is there a possibility of a rapprochement between you and the MRTA, which has a theoretical position which is rather close to that of the United Left, although its methods differ?

[Answer] We have always said that we do not advocate violence, but violence is imposed by the enemy, by the reactionaries, who are not resigned to losing power. Our response, then, can be no other. Now as to the possibility that at we may at some time reach agreement in this realm with other sectors, it is indeed probable, but after a process of ideological and political maturing on both sides has occurred. For example, I have the impression that many

people in the Shining Path will want change, will reach the conclusion that it is essential to link their struggle with the struggle of the masses rather than excluding themselves from it.

[Question] But the reverse process could also occur.

[Answer] That is true. Because of pressure, the deterioration of events, there may also be a development of an inevitable sort. What I do see very clearly for the future, with the experience my age gives me, is things advancing toward a confluence of the masses, an accumulation of popular forces capable of winning power, remaining in power and building a just and democratic society.

[Question] The presidents of the United Left and the APRA, Alfonso Barrantes and Alan Garcia, respectively, met last Monday, from all appearances to deal with the raids on the universities. Does there perhaps exist a level for coordination between the president of the government party and the main opposition force?

[Answer] I can tell you categorically that this is not the case, because I talked with Barrantes, and according to him, Alan Garcia called on him to talk about the the APRA Day celebrations and the imminent visit of Minister Tomas Borge. And Barrantes assured me that no other subject was discussed, giving the impression that the purpose of the visit was to get journalists to speculate that something else was afoot. This was more nearly the thinking of Alan Garcia.

[Question] The more skeptical feel that the searches at the universities at least rallied the IU for resumption of its organic life. Is this really true? What is the current status of the front?

[Answer] There has been much speculation about a possible division, but this is not true, nor has it ceased to act. You have there the statements not only concerning the universities, but also protesting the massacres, denouncing the torture of the students in Cusco and the detention of Juan Tutuy. The tactics and the strategy are common to all the parties which make up the IU, and when it comes to denouncing the takeover of the organizations by the Aprista Party, all of the militants who are scattered get the idea of uniting and fronts develop. A united-leftist awareness is a necessity for the people, something they cannot do without.

[Question] But isn't this reflected in the organic life?

[Answer] Well, the organic aspect failed because precise norms to govern it had not yet been established, and so there were no provisions to which to adhere, between the national leadership and the committee levels, for example. The matter of issuing membership cards was also discussed for a long time, and just recently a consensus has developed to the effect that this is necessary. However, for a long time this was not the thinking, and this is a problem we will have to take up as soon as possible through the National Leadership Committee or a plenary session.

[Question] And what does the Communist Party think of the proposal of other organizations in the IU that a congress or a national event involving all the base level groups in this front be held?

[Answer] It seems to us that although the concept is correct, it is not feasible immediately, because a congress is something more than a simple gathering of delegates on the national level. It must, in fact, be preceded by preparations at the base level to ensure that all of the organs will participate, and for this to occur, there is a need first of all to structure the bases. Otherwise, the bases will send delegates, but they will be elected by the assembly method, and thus the will of those who have the greatest capacity for mobilization and winning delegates will be imposed, and basically, it will become an entirely undemocratic event.

[Question] The single party of the workers is a dream which revolutionaries in all eras have long nurtured. According to some militants, the objective conditions for its realization exist, with the union of the PCP, UNIR and PUM. Will the Political Commission of the party or the pertinent bodies analyze this possibility at some time?

[Answer] In the preparatory theses for the ninth party congress, which is where these matters will be analyzed, some criteria, basically the same as those we sent to the PUM, which asked us to meet on this matter, are set forth. According to these criteria, if the United Left front is to remain effective, it must continue as it is. This means that no one should be excluded nor should divisions develop which might cause someone to withdraw from the IU because of a feeling of discrimination. We believe that the criterion according to which the IU should be dominated by the Marxist forces is not proper either, because we have allies of Social Christian origin, and some from other sectors, and they are good allies. We agree on the mediate issue and on the struggle for socialism, and so why pursue this discrimination?

[Question] Tell us, Senator del Prado, what in your view is the future of the left wing in Peru?

[Answer] There is no reversal possible--the future of the left in Peru is the future of Peru.

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CSO:3348/236

#### PARTY LEADER PROPOSES PPC REORGANIZATION

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 2 Feb 87 p A-4

[Text] The full reorganization of the Popular Christian Party "with a view to transforming it into a mass party and breaking the pattern according to which it is a party of the capital only, and also in order to create a truly national organization" will be proposed to this group by Popular Christian Deputy Celso Sotomarino Chavez.

This parliamentarian, a leader high in the ranks of the PPC, explained that the reorganization he will propose will include, among other things, the creation of a collegiate national general secretariat.

He said, however, that it will not involve elimination of the post of president, "nor failure to recognize that Luis Bedoya Reyes represents party unity and his capacity to win triumph in the 1990 general elections.

"It does not imply any criticism of the present party administration, either, but sets forth new ideas for the purpose of keeping pace with the present times and benefiting from the experience we have acquired," he said.

He also explained that as a first step toward the total reorganization of the PPC, the leaders have already placed their posts in the hands of the presidency, and have offered the vice presidency of the party to its founders.

#### Five Members

In explaining his plan, Sotomarino Chavez said that the collegiate general secretariat he will propose "will be made up of five individuals."

He said that this concept has already been accepted in principle.

"Within this same scheme, Bedoya is suggesting that the collegiate general secretariat have nine members," he noted.

Still within the framework of his plan, this parliamentarian said that each of the five members would serve in the general secretariat on a rotating basis, for 1 year.

"Reelection for another year would be allowed, but only if the membership unanimously approves," he added.

He went on to say that executive administration "would be the responsibility of the collegiate general secretariat, while in the future, the party president would be responsible for all of the ideological leadership, in order to safeguard its purity."

#### **Direct Daily Dialogue**

Sotomarino also said that Bedoya would engage in direct and daily dialogue with groups of "young people between 14 and 17, in order to develop enthusiasm for expansion in the youth sector."

He said that apart from the collegiate general secretariat, a plenary executive board made up of the 25 national secretaries and the 25 departmental secretaries would be established.

And, finally, he explained that with these reorganizational measures, "An effort is being made to achieve efficiency in administration and consolidation of the party on the national level, and to break away from the capital focus to develop an organization of truly national dimensions."

#### **The PPC and the Lima Commune**

On the other hand, after confirming the decision of the PPC concerning its actions concerning the posts to which the citizens elected eight aldermen from his party, Sotomarino said that they will be sworn in at the next session of the Lima Provincial Council, which is to be held any day now.

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CSO:3348/234

**DIAZ ORIHUELA CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC POLICY**

Lima EL NACIONAL in Spanish 28 Feb 87 pp 11-13

[Interview with AP Senator Javier Diaz Orihuela by Zoraida Portillo: "Too Much Ado About Nothing"]

[Text] Known for his acerbic criticism of the economic policy of the government, in which he has gone so far as to describe the economic growth seen in 1986 as "inflation," Senator Javier Diaz Orihuela, a member of Popular Action, is nonetheless an individual with the authority to judge the economic administration of the government. And this is precisely what he did in this interview, wherein, on the basis of the official figures published in its weekly bulletin by the Central Reserve Bank, he revealed that the figures had been manipulated, particularly with regard to the net international reserves, the increase in the gross industrial product and the payment of the foreign debt which, according to his calculations, has been honored to the extent of at least 26 percent. He also says that the famous "dedollarization" of the economy is not what it claims, but simply a maneuver, in other words the irregular issuance of bills. It is too bad that he is not as penetrating when it comes to self-criticism of the AP's economic management. A vociferous candidate for the post of secretary general of his party, he said in the final portion of the interview that in any case, Belaunde will go for his third reelection as president in 1990. And he says that only his physical disappearance could prevent this.

[Question] According to the government's estimates, inflation this year should be equal to or less than that last year. But the opposition believes it will easily exceed three figures. Are you of this same opinion?

[Answer] In calculating inflation, the government uses a *sui generis* method based on consumer price indices dating back 10 years. In 1977 and 1978, food expenditures accounted for 38.9 or 39.9 percent of the family basket, but the specific expenditure for this category today is 60 or even 70 percent. Based on outdated figures, inflation is indeed 63 percent, but the truth is that inflation is over 100 percent. And what I say is so true that the general budget of the republic for this year shows an increased of more than 100 percent over that for 1986. If the figures pertaining to the economy are real, then the budget should have increased by only 63 percent. I believe, therefore, that without a doubt, it will exceed three figures by year's end.

[Question] The minister of economy, in justifying the 10 percent thesis, said that "The level of debt payment should be consistent with our growth." Do you believe it correct to state that the debt can become a stimulus for production through the compensated trade system?

[Answer] Naturally, it is a very important stimulus. But Minister Alva Castro has not thereby made any new discovery, for the AP government already did this. I believe that the problem lies in whether the government is in fact paying the 10 percent on our exports, since according to what the president of the Central Reserve Bank said in his statement to the parliament, Peru paid \$660 million on the foreign debt in 1986, representing 26 percent of all our exports, which totaled \$2,545,000,000. This thesis is pure rhetoric. Perhaps the European and American banks were paid the equivalent of 10 percent, but payment to the BID, AID and World Bank is obligatory, for otherwise aid would be cut off immediately.

[Question] If it were not mere rhetoric, would you be satisfied with the payment of the 10 percent?

[Answer] I am satisfied with the thesis of paying an amount consistent with the real capacity of the country. Ceilings of 5, 10 or 20 percent, whatever is deemed suitable, can be set, but what does not seem proper to me is use of a series of insulting adjectives about the creditors who lent money to Peru, basically during the years of the military dictatorship, when our debt rose from \$800 million to \$10 billion.

[Question] Then for you what is evil is the denunciation of the imperialist and exploitative nature of such bodies as the IMF.

[Answer] I believe that there must be a dialogue and a refusal to bow to any imposition, rather than being, as we are now, a figurehead for the other Latin American countries, using harsh terms and receiving not one cent, while the other nations do. What has been gained with this bravado? Our country has been declared ineligible, values have deteriorated, and of the credit authorization of \$978 million, only \$192 million has been realized. What kind of "revolutionary" and "popular" attitude is this?

[Question] According to the analysts, the two "black sheep" in the foreign debt flock are now Peru and Brazil.

[Answer] No, because Brazil has announced talks with the private banks and international bodies in an effort to find a solution. Where I do agree that we are "black sheep" is in connection with the economic recovery plans, the Cruzado Plan and that being pursued here in Peru.

[Question] What are the similarities?

[Answer] As the Peruvian plan did, Brazil ascribed a tremendous economic resource potential to the majority in the country for an increase in production and purchasing capacity, and what are the results?

[Question] One of the main results has been the "dedollarization" of the economy, and an increase in the gross domestic product.

[Answer] Ah, but let us look at that. We had an increase of 8.5 percent last year, but at what cost? This percentage was the equivalent of \$1,300,000,000, but to achieve this we lost \$650 million in net international reserves, plus the \$888 million which evaporated from the foreign currency bank certificates representing the savings of thousands of people, which were converted under the euphemism of "dedollarization." To this must be added the approximately 10 billion intis, equivalent to \$800 million, consolidated by the last financing law. In other words, if we add together all of the above, we see that it took \$2,300,000,000 to achieve an increase of \$1,300,000,000, or 8.5 percent. This cannot be called growth, for it is only bombast.

[Question] In your opinion, then, the "dedollarization" was bad.

[Answer] It may be desirable for the country, but the fact is that thousands of savers had their assets in dollars, but now they have no savings either in intis or in dollars, because inflation exceeds 100 percent, and, naturally, the interest paid does not replace even a quarter of the total, and on top of that, one cannot save in dollars. This is a totally erroneous policy.

[Question] However, the situation which existed before these steps were taken was untenable. For all practical purposes, the dollar had become our national currency. Even trade transactions and rental payments were effected in dollars rather than soles.

[Answer] Ah, but it has been thus up to the present because it did not occur to anyone that he could rent housing, an important matter, naturally, in intis. All the major transactions were effected in dollars, but the people did not use this currency to buy a Coca Cola or a garment, because intis were used for this purpose, while the possibility of saving in dollars existed, and there were approximately \$1,150,000,000. And what has not been said is that the Popular Action left \$971 million in reserves as of June 1985, in addition to the \$1,500,000,000 in bank certificates.

[Question] And what is the present situation?

[Answer] According to the statements of the Central Reserve Bank, we have \$800 million in net international reserves, and we have only \$588 million in foreign currency, according to Table No 1 in the weekly bulletin of the BCR. The dollars have been converted into intis. There has been no "dedollarization," but simply a contrived maneuver. And there, in the BCR bulletin, is the proof. Table No 8 in the last BCR bulletin shows that the primary emission in July of 1985 came to 5,145,000,000 intis, but by November of last year we had already reached 34,725,000, and by 31 January, 37,630,000,000.

[Question] That is the situation for the primary emission, but how is the issuance of bills proceeding?

[Answer] The government says that precisely because it was a primary emission, it is not of great importance. However, the bills plus the demand deposits, again according to the BCR, totaled 5,761,000,000 intis in July of 1985, in other words almost the same as the primary emission, but as of 31 January, the money had been converted into 29,408 intis. There was, then, an irregular issue of bills, and the dollars evaporated with the import from foreign countries of all of the supplies and the payment of the foreign debt. It is not I who say this, for it is set forth in the official documents of the BCR.

[Question] What can be done to reestablish the reserve level we lost?

[Answer] For the government, the term "net international reserves" (RIN) no longer exists. Now they talk of "liquidity." And it is said that our liquidity comes to 1,750,000,000.

[Question] Well, then, where is the deception, in your view?

[Answer] There is no deception, because our international reserves have dropped completely, and the loss situation is obvious. According to the BCR bulletin, which in the present situation has become a "Pandora's box" because of the surprises it contains, we had RIN totaling 971 million in 1985. In March of last year the total was up to 1,541,000,000, but as of 31 January, the BCR admits, the reserves had dropped to \$833 million, a truly major decline. But the government chose to set aside the short-term obligations and even the long-term ones, and thus it refers only to gross reserves, which in fact were 1,757,000,000 as of 31 January.

[Question] Taking a retrospective view, what self-criticism would you make of the economic management of the AP government? Because thus far, you have given the impression that it left a healthy economy as its legacy.

[Answer] I believe that the main error was failure to make use of the media as this government does, because everyone is convinced that inflation has come down and that the international reserves are at a good level and we are international leaders.

[Question] But this self-criticism would pertain to political administration. I asked you for an analysis of economic management.

[Answer] (Silence.)

[Question] What, there were no errors? Weren't the conditions imposed by the international bodies accepted?

[Answer] Well, naturally there were errors. All governments commit errors.

[Question] Right. What were they, then?

[Answer] Perhaps it would have been wise to implement a less rigorous policy with regard to the dollar exchange rate for the dollar. I believe that this should have been handled with a little more care, not getting into exchange

control, but rather taking some precautions. Also there may have been excessive imports of luxury articles, which reached an extreme point at a given time. And I also believe that it was wrong to act so openly and freely in the economic process. Positive interest was being paid, and if inflation went up, the interest went higher.

[Question] Yet corrective steps were never taken to control inflation.

[Answer] But the fact is we inherited inflation. It began in 1972, under the military government, but it was held back and then gradually began to gain impetus. Thus the AP inherited a bubbling process of inflation and devaluation, in addition to impossible foreign debt payment promises. The debt had to be honored, because otherwise we would have found it impossible to obtain new credit for the development of the country.

[Question] Obviously, but in this matter the government is indeed right--the debt cannot be paid at the expense of poverty for the people. You did nothing in this connection.

[Answer] This expresses one point of view, but there are many ways of halting inflation. The Cruzado Plan is one, as are the Austral Plan and this Peruvian scheme, but we see that the result is totally uncontrolled inflation, and this is how this adventure in economic recovery will end. The fact is that the AP government ended its term of office with an inflation rate of 107.1 percent, according to the official INE report.

[Question] The current news is the discovery of fabulous gas reserves. It is said that they would enable Peru to recover the approximately \$400 million in oil reserve losses. Will this discovery really be the solution to our problems?

[Answer] We talked about this matter in the Senate Hydrocarbons Commission about 2 months ago. What I do not know is why this was not announced until today. We did not reveal it, because, as the opposition, we were aware that it was the duty of the government to make the announcement.

[Question] Are you suggesting that something has been hidden here?

[Answer] It is my impression that the government did not want to make this announcement because of the debate about Law No 23231, the famous Kuczynski Law. However, in July of 1981, 4 or 5 months after Law 23231 was promulgated, PETROPERU signed a contract with Shell for prospecting on Lots 38 and 42, precisely where the deposits were found. In 1984, another contract was signed with Shell for prospecting on Lots 49 and 51. But if six oil companies signed prospecting contracts, it was because they were eager for the advantages they would obtain if they were successful in their search. For Law 23231 did nothing but authorize investments with tax credit. Thus, then, had it not been for Law 23231, these deposits would not have been discovered. But is a crime to admit this out loud at a time when there are former PETROPERU officials in prison for implementing this law, while a number of others have been indicted. This is a law, we should not forget, which was passed thanks to Aprista votes, at least in the Senate.

[Question] Senator, will you be the new secretary general of your party?

[Answer] This is only a rumor, an idea which has appeared in some periodicals. However, I believe that there are party members with much greater competence and special qualifications for holding the post of secretary general. Parliamentary work takes a great deal of time, so that it is advisable that the secretary general be a man devoted 100 percent to his duties, and with much greater reason if we are going to embark upon a campaign for the 1990 elections, with every desire to win.

[Question] Over whom? Architect Belaunde?

[Answer] While Belaunde is as he is now, fully active and healthy, he has tremendous weight with the Popular Action. It is something like Haya de la Torre in the APRA. If he had been in good physical and mental condition, he would have been the candidate in 1985, and Alan Garcia would certainly be a distinguished parliamentarian...or ambassador. But with the central figure gone, this leader with the virtues we all recognize in Alan Garcia emerged.

[Question] Oh, you mean that it would require the physical disappearance of Belaunde for another leader to emerge in the AP.

[Answer] Not his disappearance, no, but since Belaunde has all his faculties, he is the irreplaceable candidate of the AP. As time passes, with the developments it will bring, there will be the natural substitutions.

[Question] For what individuals do you see possibilities?

[Answer] It is not possible to predict, because we have seen young politicians rise very easily and to a high level.

[Question] While some older leaders have come down, like Manuel Ulloa. What is his real status within the AP?

[Answer] I was not involved in the party leadership at that time, but I have heard that this denunciation of the youth was dealt with, and as in all instances of this sort, there are understandably rebellious attitudes.

[Question] And do you in particular think that there was a rapprochement between Manuel Ulloa and the APRA?

[Answer] I would say rather that Ulloa failed to use tact with the government. His affiliations, as revealed through his travels, did him harm instead of good, because I sincerely do not believe that Ulloa needs to participate in delegations to be effective, since he has his own virtues and his own impetus.

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CSO:3348/234

NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL VIEWS ROLE OF HIS OFFICE

Lima EL NACIONAL in Spanish 12 Mar 87 pp 12, 21

[Interview with Attorney General Hugo Denegri by Maria Luisa Mendoza Orozco; date and place not given]

[Text] The attorney general of the nation, Hugo Denegri Cornejo, is a person of irreproachable conduct and his professional career has been brilliant, but he has a fear of television cameras and everything involving photographs or journalists.

He is seemingly a timid man, but as one gains his confidence, one finds a cultivated person full of purpose--a man who will make more efficient and dynamic work in his ministry possible.

In the interview he granted us after more than a week of pleading, he set forth the need to undertake "constructive discussion" as a form of reaching an understanding with the Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso). He said that the problem of terrorism must be approached with intelligence and persuasion, because "It is not only with weapons that the battle must be waged, but with ideas as well."

He admitted that state terrorism exists, mainly resulting from the activities of some bad elements in the armed and police institutions which, for vengeance or due to personal error, abuse and unjustly accuse innocent people.

He promised to be a faithful defender of human rights, recognizing that they have suffered a harsh blow. For this reason he will denounce and harshly punish those who violate these rights. The following is the text of our dialogue with Dr Denegri Cornejo.

[Question] What are your personal feelings on assuming the highest post in the Ministry of Justice?

[Answer] As a man, a citizen and a professional, I feel an enormous responsibility, which I take on humbly and with considerable concern. I believe that it is natural that in the never-ending flow of human life, every event is a starting point. With the uncertainty of enjoyment, it is inseparable from hope, and sometimes fear.

[Question] Fear?

[Answer] Yes, fear of the new, of what I must overcome, of what I must direct, and of the fact that in the end I must win out. The unknown always is the source of a worrisome feeling, but I face it all with courage and determination.

[Question] Now, speaking of what is basically the subject of this interview, what is your view of the functions of the Office of the Attorney General?

[Answer] Well, the functions of the attorney general's office are developing normally, both in the administrative and other aspects. However, everything in human life can be perfected. If there are shortcomings, I will try to correct them, but in general, I do not believe I should judge or evaluate the work of one of my peers, since we all exercise an almost collegiate function. For example, for budget matters, there is the Supreme Prosecutors' Council, which drafts the budget for the attorney general's office and oversees the policy of the Ministry of Justice.

[Question] Speaking of the budget, your predecessor, Dr Elejalde, said that it was not possible to carry out various activities, such as the development of the Office of Human Rights, among others, because of a lack of resources. Does the budget of the Ministry of Justice seem limited to you?

[Answer] No, it does not. The budget was increased by the Bicameral Budget Commission of the Congress. Moreover, I understand that the work of the Office of Human Rights is continuing. More than that, this office will expand into the area of defense of the people with all of the prosecutors in the republic, who are the agents who act for the public administration, in order to correct errors, and if there are crimes, to denounce them. The prosecutor can report crimes to the court system, because there is no conflict of interest in serving as a prosecutor and the role of defender of the people.

[Question] Are there plans to debureaucratize the Ministry of Justice?

[Answer] In fact, I believe that this will be necessary. This is a natural phenomenon which must come about, because it is necessary to organize, to change structures, to distribute the personnel better.

[Question] To reduce the personnel, perhaps?

[Answer] I do not believe so. With the present personnel, we can move ahead and work efficiently to develop the Ministry of Justice further.

[Question] There have been many criticisms to the effect that there is some chaos in the Ministry of Justice. In this connection, has a reorganization been contemplated?

[Answer] Yes, but just in some sectors, in order to make them more efficient and dynamic, to make better work possible. For example, in the judicial and administrative operations, and mainly, in defending the people.

[Question] Dr Denegri, you have stated that your work will be based on serving as a defender of the people. On what aspects will you put the greatest emphasis?

[Answer] Basically, on what comes from journalist reports, as a first guideline. For example, on dealing with the problems of retired persons, of the students in the state and private secondary schools, who are suffering injuries due to the lack of police vigilance. There are seriously sick people who do not get emergency care, etc. All of these matters will have to be dealt with by the defender of the people. We will take action in all aspects of public administration, such as health, transportation, and finally, education. We prosecutors are the defenders of the people, because we are in the service of the people. We are all defenders of the people and we function as such.

#### Following His Predecessor's Path

[Question] Will you continue the activities carried out by Dr Elejalde?

[Answer] Yes. For example, we will, where necessary, retain the assistant prosecutors. The defects in the Office of Human Rights will have to be corrected, because it is not possible to keep the defense of these rights within four walls. This activity must be pursued throughout the republic. The prosecutors in the departments and the court districts will be the agents of the resolution and supervision of the defense of individual human rights.

[Question] There continue to be reports of the mysterious disappearance of a number of persons. What action will you take in this connection?

[Answer] In this area, I must continue investigating, evaluating, and informing myself in an effort to locate those who have disappeared. We must see if they have been the victims of personal vengeance or human error. Therefore we will look into where they are, what has become of them. This is a continuing function of the Ministry of Justice, and in this regard I will follow the path blazed by my predecessor, and will make whatever improvements are possible.

[Question] On the subject of terrorism, Dr Denegri, you have said that this scourge must be combated intelligently. Do you perhaps disagree with the way in which the government is dealing with it?

[Answer] Yes. What I propose is to supplement it, not to replace it. The government is pursuing necessary activities in defense of the people. But to this I would like to add a more nearly intellectual effort. I am speaking of the intervention of judges with different opinions. We must not combat extremist actions with weapons alone. Nor can the violent reaction of the state be allowed to harm innocent citizens. The work to which I refer is more an effort of persuasion, to convince people, to try to find people who will contemplate whether government systems, magnificent though they may be, can be imposed by force, blood, and violence, or whether they should be the product of a natural development, like the democratic system in which the people elect their government leaders.

## **Constructive Discussion**

[Question] You have mentioned the need to undertake "constructive discussion" as a means of reaching an understanding with the Shining Path. What does your proposal involve?

[Answer] It is very clear. It does not mean sitting down at the negotiating table, because the state will not deal with a governed subject on an equal basis. This is a phase of persuasion in other places and under other circumstances, in an effort to win back individuals who, perhaps with the best intentions, but mistakenly, are doing harm to the republic.

[Question] How would this "constructive discussion" come about? What would be the channel for realizing this project?

[Answer] That is a matter of strategy which, in fact, is being studied and improved, so that I cannot yet describe it.

[Question] Is this a personal thesis?

[Answer] No, it represents a whole series of ideas which researchers and sociologists are pursuing. What I am doing is to collate and expand it. The work of persuasion on the basis on discussion seems of interest to me. Ideas are discussed. It is necessary to talk, always to talk.

[Question] But how can an understanding be reached with the Shining Path if your interlocutors are invisible individuals who kill and conceal their deeds?

[Answer] I believe that it is necessary to talk always, always. If your interlocutor does not understand, history will listen.

[Question] Dialogue with the terrorists?

[Answer] It is my understanding that the offer of dialogue is always open, and that many are in agreement, including Cardinal Landazuri. He is a man who has the basic language for communication and reasoning.

[Question] Are you a participant, then, in the dialogue with the subversives?

[Answer] I believe that we must always talk and set forth ideas. I have no interlocutor, but at least I can address myself to a group, just as a journalist writes and orients his thinking toward groups in the community.

[Question] To what extent would a law protecting those who act as witnesses or desert the ranks of the terrorists and contribute to meting out justice be of help?

[Answer] To a great extent, I think.

(At this point, a press advisor informed my interlocutor that it was getting late, while a note was passed to me reminding me of the hour. However, Dr Denegri very kindly said we should continue.)

[Question] Thank you, doctor. I was talking about the draft law...

[Answer] Yes, something like this draft is law in other countries. It is the treatment given witnesses in both cases of terrorism and common crimes. The witness knows many things and can provide information. But what happens? He keeps silent out of fear of being indicted. What is wanted is for him to speak entirely freely until a confession of crime is obtained. But to achieve this, the witness must be protected, rather than heaping charges upon him. This law would not only be used in cases of terrorism and crime, but also for many defendants who have become repentant.

[Question] You have admitted that state terrorism is practiced in the country. How will this problem be combated in the Ministry of Justice?

[Answer] By imposing punishment where there is crime and by supporting those whose human rights have been violated. Regrettably, state terrorism occurs because control of the representatives of the state is neglected and armed groups are allowed to act. This does not mean that they are deliberately violating human rights. Peru is a democracy with laws, but regrettably there are individual cases in which the legal norms are violated.

[Question] To what point have human rights been violated in this country?

[Answer] They have suffered a harsh blow. But it is life which is deteriorating. Harm is being done to property and individuals are being impoverished. If indeed there are norms for human rights, they are being violated on both sides, mainly in individual instances.

#### Prosecution of All Types of Crime

[Question] Will your office be the implacable defender of human rights?

[Answer] That is it. It will prosecute all types of crimes, whether involving terrorism, drug traffic or simple murder. This is what the prosecutors are for. Those who do not carry out their duty to denounce will be harshly penalized.

[Question] Going on to another point, Dr Denegri, how will drug traffic be dealt with?

[Answer] I think that we must improve the resources the police use in combating this evil, because they are inadequate. Money is needed to provide them with better resources for the battle. To this end we will have to work with the United States, to deal with drug traffic. The work the attorney general's office will do will involve drastic actions to control this evil, and mainly to punish those responsible.

[Question] In the political sector, what are your relations with the executive and legislative branches like?

[Answer] They are relations of perfect harmony, with the requirement that we mutually carry out our duties and functions within the framework of the law.

[Question] Without intervention or pressure of any kind?

[Answer] Ah! If that were to happen, then harmony would be destroyed. This comes about, in my opinion, when personal considerations in the other branches enter into it. Harmony is demanded of us mutually, by the constitution and the law.

#### No Problems With the Controller

[Question] How will your relations with the controller general of the republic be? The former prosecutor general, Cesar Elejalde, clashed seriously with him.

[Answer] I have no problems with the Office of the Controller. I have known Engineer Cussianovich for a long time, and therefore our relations will be cordial. He was my teacher, and I know his capacities and determination. For this reason, I do not believe there will be any problems. Instead there will be harmony, because both of us are responsible for the control and efficiency of the elements guiding the republic.

[Question] Dr Denegri, do you not fear for your life, since your predecessor was the victim of a terrorist attack?

[Answer] I believe that we all fear for our lives. My family was once a target of the Shining Path. But despite this, I now have a great responsibility which I must meet. Therefore, no danger or fear will hold me back, but will rather push me forward.

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CSO:3348/238

#### REPORT ON EXPLOSION AT LAS PALMAS AIR FORCE BASE

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 20 Feb 87 pp A-1, A-6

[Text] An explosion, followed by a fire that took 3 hours to bring under control, occurred early yesterday morning [19 Feb 87] in a military equipment maintenance facility at the Peruvian Air Force Base at Las Palmas, Surco, leaving one person dead and others wounded.

An official statement released on this explosion by the ministry of aeronautics did not list any causes, but merely indicated that it is now under investigation by the top command.

Several accounts attributed the explosion to a short circuit; still, the possibility of a criminal attack has not been ruled out. There was also speculation that an arsenal containing grenades exploded.

The detonation was followed by bursts of firing which, according to residents of the area, lasted for about 15 minutes. It was centered in the vicinity of SEMAN [Aircraft Maintenance Service]. Shortly afterwards there were intensive military and police movements around the base.

As a result of the explosion at 0353 in the morning, one guard was killed: FAP [Peruvian Air Force] Airman Francisco Molina de la Cruz. Some other guards were wounded, though the exact number was not released.

#### Explosion Felt in Other Areas

The explosion caused damages in houses of about 10 communities located near the base. Some glass in windows and doors was broken, and even the framework of some windows was torn loose.

The shock of the explosion was felt for several kilometers around, in Brena, Miraflores, San Isidro, and Jesus Maria.

The FAP emergency equipment responded immediately when the fire started, but because of its magnitude, six companies from the Lima Fire Department were also called in. They managed to bring the flames under control after 3 hours of hard work.

Once the fire had been smothered, the firemen were not allowed to investigate, as they would normally do, but had to leave immediately.

Spokesmen from the Lima Fire Department and the General Fire Department Headquarters on Avenida Salaverry both refused to discuss their companies' intervention in this emergency.

Yesterday all access gates to the Las Palmas base, especially the main gate on Avenida Jorge Chavez, were cordoned off by armed air force personnel. Even civilian employees at the base were not permitted to enter.

Uncertainty among the families of cadets and recruits stationed at Las Palmas intensified, particularly after they learned that right after the explosion a number of ambulances had entered and left the base, transporting persons who were presumed to be wounded.

No information on possible damage to aircraft was released. The official statement issued by the ministry of aeronautics makes no reference to any such damages. The text of this statement follows:

Ministry of Aeronautics  
Peruvian Air Force Official Communique No 003-87/AE

1. The citizens are hereby informed of the following: today at 0353 an explosion occurred in one of the maintenance facilities used for military equipment at the Las Palmas Air Force Base.
2. As a consequence of this accident, one guard, FAP Airman Francisco Molina de la Cruz, was killed, and other military personnel, members of the guard service, received slight wounds. There were also considerable damages to the facility where the explosion occurred, and lesser damages in the surrounding area.
3. The FAP high command has ordered an investigation of this case.

Lima, 19 Feb 87, General Information Office of the Peruvian Air Force.

Strong Explosion Damaged Houses: Most People Thought it was a Terrorist Attack

The strong explosion at Las Palmas made all the residents of the towns surrounding the base, which has been there since 23 July 1922, jump up out of bed like jack-in-the-boxes.

At that time of the morning, with a curfew in effect, everyone immediately thought it was a terrorist attack, especially as immediately afterwards they heard the rattle of machine-gun fire coming from the base.

A large number of people from the communities of El Palmar, San Roque, La Virreyna, Los Rosales, La Capullana, Los Proceres, Prolongacion Benavides, Vista Alegre, Liguria, and Chama, of those closest to the center of the explosion, rushed out of their homes to investigate, frightened by the explosion, despite the curfew.

Windowpanes in a number of houses were broken. In some cases, according to our investigations, people thought their own houses were under attack. In reality, a great many rumors flew about in the beginning.

There were also some injuries reported. Julio Jiminez, who lives on Avenida Roosevelt in Surco, had a number of cuts on the chest, from being struck by splinters of broken glass from his bedroom windows. He was taken in a police patrol car to the San Antonio emergency treatment center, where fortunately his wounds were found to be superficial.

Another similar case was that of Carlos Senquen, who lives in San Roque, in a complex inhabited mostly by air force personnel. He was cut on the left cheek when his window shattered.

Other houses in the communities of El Palmar and Santa Elena, as well as the Parque Bajo section of Chorrillos, also had glass broken during the explosion at the base.

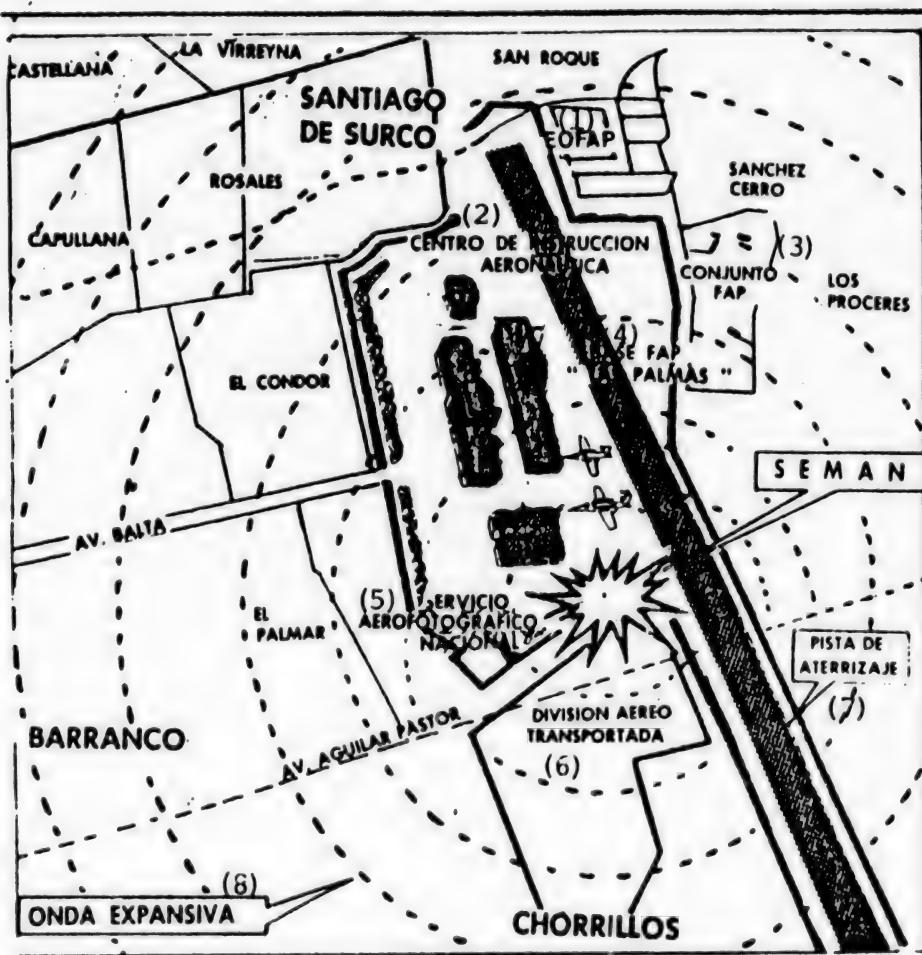
"It seemed like an earthquake. The explosion raised the roof on my house, knocking glasses over, and shattering the panes in my windows," said one resident of the first block of Camino Real.

The Chorrillos cemetery is located along that road; behind it is the military equipment maintenance facility that was damaged by the explosion and the subsequent fire.

In El Palmar the damages caused by the explosion's shock wave were clearly visible at a glance.

In the home of Teresa Ruiz Rodriguez, 55, located in Santa Elena A-5, the detonation tore the metal frame of a first-floor window loose from its masonry.

On the second floor of that house, Gregoria Rodriguez, 90, and Genoveva Delgado, 38, her granddaughter, were asleep. The detonation blew in the windowpanes, which shattered and fell on Delgado's bed.



This sketch shows the Las Palmas base and the area where the explosion occurred on 19 February. As can be seen, it was not near the central buildings and cadets' barracks. Some houses and buildings located within a fairly extensive radius were damaged by the shock wave, as shown in the photograph to the right [not included].

**Key:**

1. Peruvian Air Force Officers' Training School
2. Aeronautic Training Center
3. Peruvian Air Force compound
4. Las Palmas Air Force Base
5. National Aerial Photography Service
6. Airborne Division
7. Runway
8. Shock wave from explosion

The Santiago de Surco municipal library, located at Cornejo no 230, was also hit by the explosion's shock wave. The library is approximately 10 blocks from the center of the explosion.

#### Variety of Damages

This reporter, who lives just about 300 meters from the base, witnessed the strength and force of this explosion. It was so close that it seemed to be happening right inside the house.

Obviously people who were asleep were awakened abruptly; children in particular woke up crying and shrieking.

Then there was an extended period during which bursts of machine-gun fire were heard, making people think there was a terrorist attack going on.

At the main gate and at other access points to the Las Palmas base a security cordon was posted, manned by armed air force guards. Civilian employees at the base were prevented from going in to their normal jobs.

Even people living in the immediate vicinity had difficulties leaving or going to their homes.

Families were extremely worried, especially by the news reports spread by local radio stations, which initially talked about several persons being killed and wounded.

Top air force personnel, including the commanding general, Air Force Gen Luis Abram Cavallerino, came to the base as soon as possible to investigate what had happened.

FAP spokespersons remained silent until an extremely terse official statement was released. It reported that one airman had been killed "and other military personnel had suffered slight wounds."

Reports from people familiar with the SEMAN facilities, in whose immediate vicinity fuel and military materiel were stored, said that "the planes there for maintenance may possibly have been damaged."

On this point, FAP sources refused to make any comment.

#### Residents Call for Transfer of Las Palmas Base

Las Palmas Air Force Base, which has been in operation there since 23 July 1922, is, in the opinion of residents of the surrounding communities, a source of constant danger.

This has led to repeated public requests that the base be transferred elsewhere, outside of an urban area, as the base is used for training air force cadets. Their training flights are conducted in the area, and some of them are very close to the ground. This causes serious disturbances among the nearby residents.

In 1981 the then minister of aeronautics, Gen Jose Garcia Calderon, announced a possible transfer of Las Palmas to the Pisco base.

At that time he said that the Pisco base would be transferred to new facilities then being prepared in the plains near Los Castillos de Ica, and that the Las Palmas FAP Officers' Training School would be relocated to the Pisco base.

#### Las Palmas Already Overcrowded

"We have problems with advanced training for the cadets, so we do need more adequate facilities. Las Palmas is already overcrowded by the growth of its operations, plus there is the pressure of continuing urban growth in that area. So we do have to be thinking about a new place," he said.

Nevertheless, 2 years later Gen Cesar Luza, director of the Las Palmas Officers' Training School, rejected the likelihood of a transfer from the base in the near future. "We are not going to move somewhere else, at least not anytime soon," he indicated.

In past years there have also been a number of problems with older residents of Surco, especially with people living on the few small farms that are still left there. There have also been disputes with real estate developers, etc.

#### SEMAN

An important part of the base is the FAP's SEMAN facility. Its hangars were apparently damaged by the explosion.

The SEMAN may be considered the heart of this base, for its reputation and its modern equipment have made it the first of its kind in Latin America.

It has a number of centers for quality control and measurement of each of the parts, components and accessories for aircraft of all makes. It is one of the most complete facilities of this type in this part of the continent.

At SEMAN they make aircraft canopies, protective nosecones, pneumatic starting equipment, landing gears, brake discs, shock absorbers, and special tools. They are also trained to handle aircraft assembly.

In 1983 SEMAN celebrated its 50th anniversary. It performs maintenance of Mirage, Sukoi, Canberra, Bufalo, and Machi planes, as well as of all types of helicopters. Its infrastructure is used to support the army, navy, and commercial aviation as well.

For example, after 1000 hours of flight time, each Mirage must enter the SEMAN hangars for a minimum maintenance period lasting for 6 months.

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PERU

BRIEFS

USSR HONORS CGTP HEAD--The president of the General Confederation of Workers of Peru (CGTP), Isidoro Gamarra Ramirez, was presented with the "Friendship of the Peoples" decoration in the Kremlin last Wednesday, 25 February. Isidoro Gamarra is in the Soviet Union as the guest of the World Trade Union Federation, and today he leaves for continental China, where he will engage in important activities. Isidoro Gamarra is scheduled to return to Lima on the 12th of this month. [Text] [Lima EL NACIONAL in Spanish 3 Mar 87 p 2] 5157

CSO:3348/236

HAVANA RADIO ON PROTEST TO IMPUNITY LAW

PA101559 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Mar 87

[*"Our America"* commentary, read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] The wives of legislators (Gelmar Michelini) and Hector Gutierrez Ruiz, kidnapped and murdered in Buenos Aires in 1976, and the relatives of other people who were arrested and reported missing later on, have begun a campaign to collect at least 500,000 signatures demanding a referendum against the controversial impunity law.

Prior to analyzing the position of those who oppose and those who favor the law, it must be said that the top Uruguayan labor federation, the students federation, and many social and political organizations, including the leftist coalition, the Broad Front, and groups of the traditional parties that voted against the impunity law.

The National Commission for the Referendum, which includes university professors, members of the clergy, union leaders, artists, and scientists already installed approximately 50 tables in various areas of Montevideo where more than 200 neighborhood groups are working to collect the signatures.

Similarly, there is a commission in each of the 18 departments in the country's interior. Each commission is backed by neighborhood groups and unions that back the proreferendum campaign.

As can be seen, a true popular mobilization is under way in Uruguay to reject the measure that preventing the courts from trying the military officers, policemen, and similar groups under their command who committed terrible human rights violations.

A Uruguayan newspaper described the aftermath of the years of repression--a time when hundreds of Uruguayans were illegally dragged from their homes, tortured, and their relatives never heard from them again--as a bitter legacy.

The people's just demand to abolish the impunity law becomes much more important because this law involves those who are guilty of homicide such as that committed against Legislators (Michelini) and Gutierrez Ruiz, who were kidnapped and subsequently murdered by a Uruguayan-Argentine group in Buenos Aires in 1976.

There is no doubt that the impunity law sponsored by the ruling Colorado Party is like the apple of discord, and it has been bouncing, since 22 December, from one political group to the other and, even, within the ranks of some of these groups.

The National, Blanco, Party is split about it, too. While one sector supports a referendum, another rejects it with the opinion--shared by leader Wilson Ferreira Aldunate--that even if the law is abolished, the military officers will not appear before the courts.

In the meantime, the military officers are making veiled threats about the imminent end of the institutionality and are calling for compliance with the laws.

It would be good to ask: What contradictory principle do the Uruguayan military officers use to call for the compliance with laws they so easily violated in the past?

Although it is too early to predict the results of the campaign, the courageous attitude of the Uruguayans--who are about to begin a fight against a law that they feel is unfair in an organized and combative way--calls for support.

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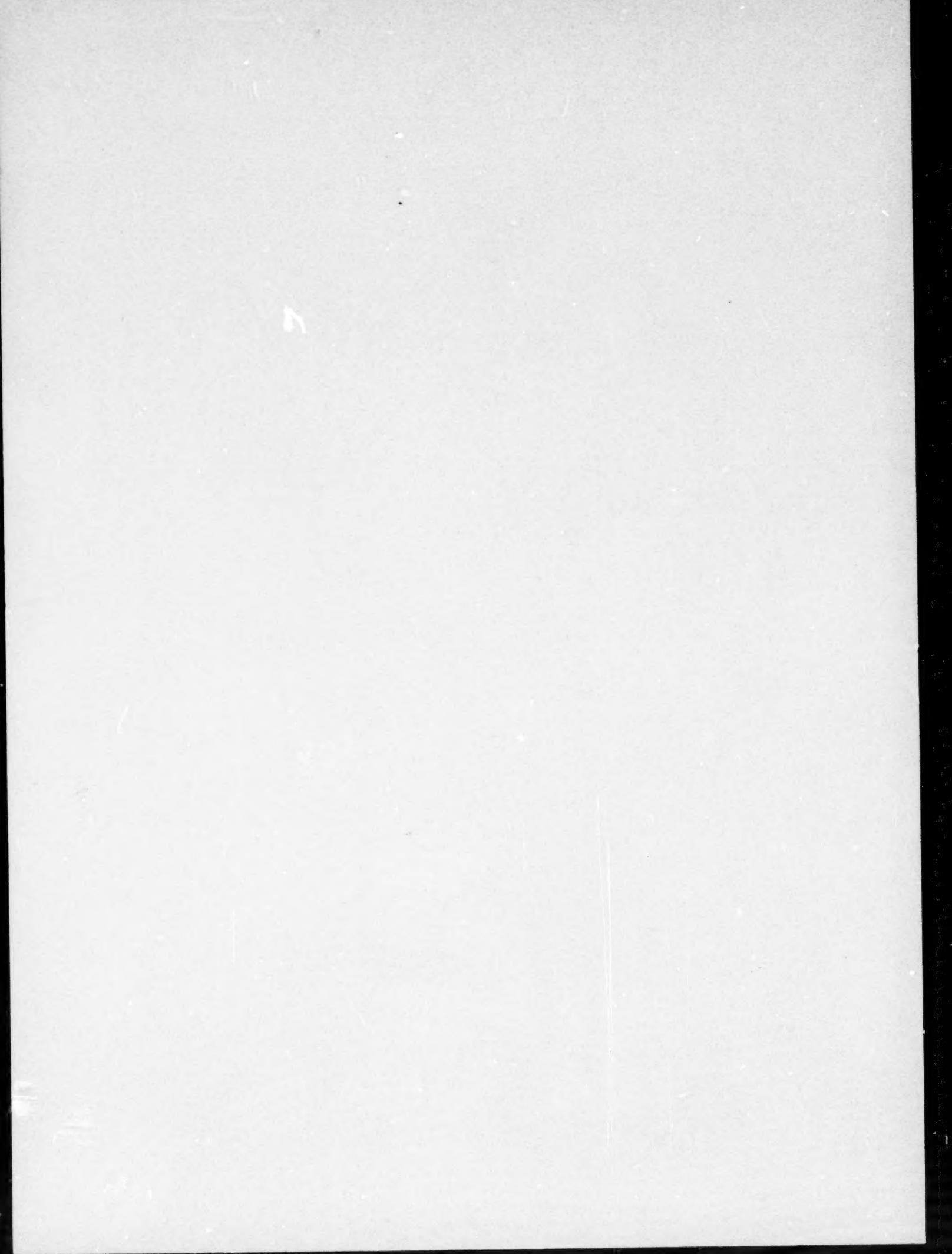
**URUGUAY**

**BRIEFS**

**INFLATION RATE ANNOUNCED--Montevideo, 7 Mar (EFE)--The Uruguayan Government Census and Statistics Department reported today that the cost of living in Uruguay increased by 7.45 percent during the months of January and February. The accrued inflation rate for the last 12 months is 67.44 percent.**  
[Summary] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 2102 GMT 7 Mar 87 PY] /9274

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**DATE FILMED**

16 July 1981